



Introduction

Each of the 88 studies in this series are self-contained and are designed for teaching a Bible Study Group. Each study is in note form (similar to the format most preachers use) rather than in-depth to allow each user to relate the message in their own words. It should only take around 30 minutes to teach from each study, though some might want to double up if they feel that 88 sessions is too long. It is my prayer that this guide will be of a blessed benefit to you as it was to me and Living Word Bible Church.

Christ and Him Crucified,

Gary J. Hall

Study 1

Introduction to Paul's thesis

Galatians 1:8-9 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

Purpose = to restate the doctrine of Justification.

By Faith not works or sacramentalism.

Eternal punishment for false teachers.

They denied justification and sanctification by faith.

Satan does all he can to destroy the gospel.

His trick was to unite religion and Christianity.

Cannot please God by obedience to the Law.

Religion is rebellion against God.

The Galatians were receiving False Teachers.

Paul sought to get them back on track.

Who the Galatians were

They were Celts - sacramental religion accepted.

Galatia: Ankara in Turkey is the general region.

Incorporated by Rome in 25BC.

Worshipped '*Agolistis*' - mother of the gods.

Paul took the gospel to these idol worshippers.

The letter was written around 50AD.

- * At first they honoured Paul.
- * They allowed a perverted gospel in.
- * False teachers insisted on Jewish rites.
- * They said Paul was a heretic.
- * Taught that the Law of Moses binding on all.
- * Taught that circumcision was necessary.
- * Caused division and dissension.
- * They operated contrary to the Holy Spirit.

Paul's letter opposes and corrects these notions.

Romans defines and declares the true gospel.

Galatians restates the true gospel.

In Corinthians Paul dealt with immorality.

In Galatians he deals with spiritual adultery.

2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

Study 2

Galatians 1:1 Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;)

This greeting reveals Paul's annoyance too.

Makes a bold claim for his apostleship.

Why does he put himself forward in **:1**?

Judaizers were challenging his position.

They were saying he wasn't of the original twelve.

Paul deals with this in **2 Corinthians 10-12**.

Apostle:

Jesus, not **men**, chose the apostles.

Judaizers tricked Galatians with this.

They may have suggested they were successors.

Bible doesn't teach apostolic succession (papacy).

His apostleship was **not of men**.

The word **of** can also mean *'from'*.

The source of his apostleship was **Christ**.

Jesus met him on the Damascus Road.

He was commissioned by the High Priest.

Now his commission was of **Christ** alone.

Paul was ordained because he was called.

Neither by man or no human channel.

Paul an apostle: he was called and sent.

He had the message of grace.

All the opposers rejected this message,

They were doing Satan's bidding.

Satan prefers salvation by works instead.

Paul called them **false apostles**.

Not of men, neither by men:

Indicates he would not submit to man's authority.

He had a higher calling.

He had been sent by the Pharisees.

Now he was sent by **God**.

Paul was making his stand for the truth.

He was going to resist the *Hebrew Roots* crowd.

Christ and the Cross was his message.

Jesus Christ - The only Head of the Church.

He alone had the right to commission.

To object to that is to deny the Father too.

Twelve were commissioned by Jesus.

Paul was commissioned after the resurrection.

He had the stamp of God's approval on it!

Study 3

Galatians 1:2 And all the brethren which are with me, unto the churches of Galatia: Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul often had a ministry team with him.

The company might be those mentioned below.

Acts 20:4 And there accompanied him into Asia Sopater of Berea; and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timotheus; and of Asia, Tychicus and Trophimus.

With him in the greeting and reprimand.

With may infer their standing with him.

The use of **all** indicates a good number of people.

They wouldn't have if Paul was in error.

They believed and taught the gospel of grace.

Amos 3:3 Can two walk together, except they be agreed?

Paul now gives his usual salutation.

Grace here is sanctification rather not salvation.

The Holy Spirit works this into our lives.

Grace for the ongoing work of sanctification.

It is overcoming **grace**.

Peace means freedom, liberty, safety, prosperity.

This **peace** can only come from **God**.

It is the same as the **rest Jesus** promised.

Matthew 11:28-30 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Many have the **grace** but few know the **peace**.

The Galatians were seeking this through the Law.

The Law cannot bring anyone peace with **God**.

Notice the phrase:

From God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Godhead planned this **grace** and **peace**.

It is a **peace** this world knows nothing about.

John 14:27 **Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.**

Philippians 4:7 **And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.**

Two enemies torment us: Sin and Condemnation.

Grace deals with sin.

Peace deals with condemnation.

Wasn't it enough to write **From God the Father**?

That would have confirmed the Judaizers position.

From the Lord Jesus Christ points to the cross.

God and **Lord** speak of Divinity = **God**.

No point to mentioning **Father** if **Jesus** isn't **God**.

This is exactly what **Jesus** said.

John 14:6 **Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**

John 8:19 **Then said they unto him, Where is thy Father? Jesus answered, Ye neither know me, nor my Father: if ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also.**

If Paul didn't intend this then **Lord** should be there.

No **grace** or **peace** if **Jesus** isn't **Lord**.

Angels and preachers cannot supply them.

Only comes from the Sovereign **Lord**.

This is why Paul always preached **Christ**.

1 Corinthians 1:23-24 But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

Study 4

Galatians 1:4 Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father.

Paul gets to the reason for his letter.

He presents the substitutionary death of Jesus.

His statement is both concise and complete.

It is the Gospel in a nutshell.

Salvation begins with **God** not us.

Revelation 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to

repentance.

Therefore it's God's **will** to save people.

Deliver ~ Rescue, set free, liberty.

Deliverance from a slave trader (sin).

We are delivered **from** an **evil world**.

Out of its power, clutches, chains.

The values of the **world** are not ours.

Romans 12:2 **And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.**

Jesus **gave Himself** up in our place.

The Galatian church had forgotten this truth.

No other way to be saved.

Galatians 5:4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

They were falling for the 'work for salvation' lie.

Jesus offered **Himself** voluntarily for us.

Salvation and sanctification can't be bought.

Hebrews 10:9 Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.

Salvation is Jesus doing the **will** of the **Father**.

'Works' is a bloodless religion of self-effort.

This is the religion of the Judaizers.

They mixed Christ and circumcision to be saved.

They believed that Faith in Christ wasn't enough.

They believed that His sacrifice was insufficient.

They held to religion, rules and regulations.

This has ever been the case since Cain.

Many church 'add' to salvation and sanctification.
All additions is nothing short of salvation by works.
Adding anything, good or bad, is deemed evil.
It denies that Jesus' giving **Himself** was enough.
Jesus fulfilled the Levitical Law completely.
He is the only acceptable sin offering.
All the animal sacrifices were only symbols.
The rituals could not save a single soul.
The Jews failed to understand this fact:
So they made a religion out of the sacrifices.
All the sacrifices pointed to Christ.

Study 5

Galatians 1:4 Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father.

Paul rarely writes on the Life and Ministry of Jesus.

The Cross and the Resurrection are his themes.

The cross is indispensable.

Why? Because sin is worse than we imagine.

Most Christians have a poor understanding of it.

It is destructive and deadly.

So evil only Jesus could deal with it.

Moses, philosophy and religion can't solve it.

Freedom from sin comes through the cross.

Jesus died for **our sins**.

That's exactly what John the Baptist announced.

John 1:29 Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

So how do we obtain remission of sin?

It is received by faith in Christ alone.

This destroys all merits, works, rituals, religion.

If Jesus **gave Himself**, what can we possibly give?

No one has ever been able to put away sin.

Sinners can never satisfy God's demands.

Sinners cannot dominate sin.

It was for **our sins** personally He died.

Everyone is included in **our** - none excluded.

Jesus died for all sin, not just the "big" ones.

All sin, big or small, deserve God's wrath.

Faith in a merit system must fail.

This message is obscured by religion today.

Religion makes void the grace of **God**.

It is finished **John 19:30** - nothing to be added.

Who gave - notice what this means.

He was forced or compelled to go to the cross.

Jesus came knowing what He was to do.

He did it joyfully.

Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

He did it in love for us.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Though the religious leaders sent Him to the cross.

Through the Romans nailed Him to the cross.

He went voluntarily.

Not the nails, but our sin held Him there.

What price could we pay?

How much do we owe Him?

He freely **gave** so we wouldn't have to pay.

Only His death was sufficient.

Only faith is required.

This is the entire crux of Christianity!

Study 6

Galatians 1:4 Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father.

That he might deliver us from this present evil world:

Emancipation from slavery to this world.

Its principles, ethics, religion, politics, morality.

Man is enslaved to Satan.

Nothing he can do can buy his Liberty.

Tries education and psychology to no avail.

It ends in the same way - damnation.

Yet man keeps trying to improve himself.

How does Jesus do it?

1 Corinthians 2:2 For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

By His work on the cross.

Without this failure follows.

This is where many Christians fail.

The cross is the only message that can save.

Everything hinges on this truth.

Only way to regain the life Satan stole in Eden.

That's why we **must be born again** **John 3:7**.

This world is under Satan's dominion.

2 Corinthians 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Not the globe but humanity.

Present evil world - only until the Millennium.

The world's system is corrupt.

Built upon greed, pride, selfishness and ego.

The false church tries to solve this politically.

The Bible knows nothing of this.

The nations can't change until Jesus returns.

Evil = *poneros* (Greek) = *actively evil*.

Refers to it becoming more and more **evil**.

No wonder the world is a dangerous place.

Reason why we have to be careful.

Powers of darkness tugging people away.

This **evil world** idolises humanitarianism.

Glorified by those who reject the Gospel.

Honours those who confront the Truth.

Only Jesus can set people free from its grasp.

The **present evil world** is thoroughly bound in sin.

Jesus came to snap the chains.

Study 7

Galatians 1:4-5 Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father: To whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

There are only two possibilities:

- * Belong to Christ.
- * Belong to the world.

Majority of people are bondslaves of Satan.

Everything they do advances his kingdom.

His 'wisdom' darkens rather than illuminates.

The **world** praises its own righteousness.

It condemns the righteousness of Christ.

Evil world - that is the best it can be!

And there is no **evil** like religious **evil**.

Satan is called: **an angel of light**.

2 Corinthians 11:14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

This light drags people into deeper darkness.

The **world** knows things are wrong.

But won't accept the remedy for sin.

Instead tries politics, religion and psychology.

Paul states that Jesus is the Emancipator.

Jesus frees us from **this present evil world**.

How? Through the power of the cross.

He **gave Himself** to **deliver us**.

In delivering us, He set us apart from the **world**.

It is our responsibility to stay free from it.

1 Thessalonians 5:22 Abstain from all appearance of evil.

True citizens of Christ's Kingdom do this.

The **will of God** is God's standard for salvation.

It refers to the means He has prescribed.

By faith alone in the cross.

Salvation is a free gift.

He saved us **from** this **world**.

He saved us **from** Satan's dominion.

He saved us **from** the power of sin.

Deliver is a verb denoting the result of an act.

Colossians 1:13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son.

We are destined to reign with Christ.

That's one reason the **world** hates us.

John 15:18-19 If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

It hates us because it rejects Christ as Saviour.

1 John 3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

Our text speaks of continuous victory in Christ.

Freedom from the works gospel.

Freedom from those who peddle it.

Only Jesus' blood can cleanse from sin.

Those who believe otherwise are in error.

Holdfast to this truth - it's our freedom.

This plan of salvation originates with **God**.

Romans 8:14-18 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The

Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Amen? Faith in this glorifies **God**.

Amen - a true and binding truth.

Amen - suggests that we need to agree with it.

Amen - means we need to participate in it.

Study 8

Galatians 1:6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel.

Paul's message is urgent and straightforward.
Severe reprimand instead of than commendation.
No hint of praise in opening remarks.

Marvel: amazed.

Their spiritual defection was extraordinary.
Better things were expected of this church.
Paul was highly disappointed in them.

So soon: so quickly and easily.

Paul wanted to halt their slide into deeper error.
He was angry with them and the false teachers.

Different gospel: a **different** kind of teaching.

They were exchanging **grace** for works.

False teachers offered an alternative **gospel**.

They believed in Jesus, but added Moses.

Removed: transfer allegiance, defection

Basically they were turncoats.

They altered their beliefs in favour of religion.

Heading to total abandonment of the Truth.

Him: the Lord Jesus **Christ**.

This means they were now rejecting **Christ**.

In doing so they were forsaking salvation.

How soon before they lost salvation?

This must be the worst possible error of all.

Only judgement awaits for such.

2 Peter 2:1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in

damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

Grace: the goodness of God freely given.

This is the foundation of the cross.

Grace is directly opposition to works.

Received by the outstretched hand of faith.

They were abandoning this grace.

Rejecting the cross as the only means of salvation.

They were putting themselves under the Law.

Believed that the Law saved and sanctified.

The Law was designed to convict sinners.

That's all the Law can do.

Paul was amazed by their works **gospel!**

Study 9

Galatians 1:6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel.

Another gospel: one which nullifies grace.

Depending on merits for salvation.

Introducing Jewish rites and practices.

It pretends to be the **Gospel** of **Christ**.

The Galatians had begun well, but were failing.

They were listening to falsehood.

Acts 15:5 But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses.

Was Moses finishing the work Jesus started?

From ... grace: they were falling from **grace**.

Salvation isn't possible outside of **grace**.

That was the plan of false **gospel** promoters.

Notice that it's more than a *different* **gospel**.

Satan couldn't get a *different* **gospel** by them.

Another: a similar **gospel**, but an erroneous one.

It contradicted the true **gospel**.

It twists and questions the word of God.

Satan has done this from the beginning.

Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

This leads to the creation of a works religion.

Genesis 4:3-5 And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

Cain thought he could bring his own sacrifice.

He rejected the blood sacrifice for sin.

Paul considered the false teachers as evil.

Philippians 3:2-6 Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision. For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh. Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: Circumcised the eighth day,

of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

He calls them dogs - vermin.

The **another gospel** is the ecclesiastical position.

False teachers who elevate themselves.

Religious leaders who deceive people.

The false teachers opposed Paul.

Philippians 1:14-18 And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will: The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds: But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel. What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I

therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.

Religious people don't understand the atonement.
They love their rites too much to trust in **Christ**.

Galatians 4:10 **Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years.**

Their whole doctrine is skewed.
These false teachers were not saved.
Salvation is *always* by **grace** through faith.

Ephesians 2:8-9 **For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.**

Why did they teach differently?
Because they believed differently.
Yet some in Galatia saw through the falsehood.

They were the ones who told Paul about this.

Study 10

Galatians 1:7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.

Every other **gospel** pervert the truth.

Not another - there is no other **gospel**.

The true **Gospel** is **of Christ** - very specifically.

Everything else is a counterfeit.

This **another** is a cancer of corruption.

There are not even two gospels!

Any other **gospel** is a Satanic pack of lies.

How can the other **gospel** be equally good news?

Salvation by works is bad new to the soul.

Titus 3:5-7 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through

Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

How many works should we do to be saved?

How will we know we've done enough?

The works **gospel** offers no assurance.

Galatians were turning away from the **gospel**.

They were listening to another spirit.

2 Corinthians 11:4 For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.

Trouble: is is what false teachers cause.

They pretend to speak for God.

The *Hebrew Roots* crowd **trouble** the church too.

Pervert: to reverse, turn around.

They pervert the faith of many.

They change grace into works, rituals, feasts.

They **pervert the gospel of Christ**.

The **gospel of Christ** is the cross.

Grace and works are incompatible.

Romans 11:6 And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.

Would the false teachers purposely deceive?

Were they merely sincerely wrong.

They obviously studied hard to dismiss grace.

What were they studying? **Christ** or the Law?

If they studied **Christ** they'd have taught grace.

These men were employed by Satan.

Reliance on rituals for salvation is evil.

This is what Paul clearly states next.

Study 11

Galatians 1:8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

Paul's critics said he invented the teaching.
They claimed they were the official teachers.
Paul vehemently denounced them as false.

Accursed: damned, condemned, anathema.

This is how strongly he felt about the issue.
Anyone who teaches false doctrine is damned.
The Glory of Christ and salvation are at stake.

Galatians 2:21 I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

If false teachers are right then Christ died in vain.

Matthew 18:6 But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.

If Paul is right, then the false teachers are doomed.

Angel: God's angels would not speak error.

Galatians were unaware of the seriousness?

No room for man's opinions regarding salvation.

Any other: the word **any** is absolutely vital here.

No deviation or departures from the **gospel**.

The New Covenant is the **Gospel** of the Cross.

Accursed: an announcement of what to expect.

The **Gospel** of Christ is perfect and complete.

Everything else, no matter how similar, is false.

Avoid preachers who teach a works **gospel**.

Their claims must be totally ignored.

What they teach is a curse on the church.

All of us are accountable here.

Cooperation with false teachers is perilous.

God cannot bless us if we do.

The **gospel** of Christ is remarkably simple.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.

Nothing more, nothing less than this is the **gospel**.

The false teachers can't grasp this.

They, like all religion, manipulate the truth.

The **gospel** of attainment for salvation is false.

Only the atonement in Christ is sufficient.

Any works related **gospel** rejects the atonement.

Galatians 2:21 I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

Paul's teaching is clear in this verse:

- * Following false teachers brings damnation.
- * Following any works **gospel** brings a curse.

The Holy Spirit inspired Paul's words.

So we should take heed to them!

Mark 16:16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Jesus paid the price in full for our salvation.

Never allow the **gospel** to be diluted.

Study 12

Galatians 1:9 As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

Why the seeming repetition from verse 8?

In reality it isn't repetition as we shall see.

Paul is making his teaching very personal.

Any man means anyone whoever they may be.

Not just the false teachers, but anyone is cursed.

Anyone who promotes a **gospel** of works.

The Galatians were heading towards slavery.

Paul knew because he had lived under the Law.

He had no choice but to condemn this error.

Everyone can **preach** what they want, but ...

It doesn't make what they **preach** the truth.

So Paul firmly emphasises the true **gospel**.

Notice **we**, for the message was not just his view.
Some have suggested that he was negative.
If Jesus alone is Saviour, then all others are false.
So is that being negative towards the false?
All erroneous ways to God are cursed.
Here is the positive side of the **gospel**:

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

But there has to be a negative side too.

John 3:18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

If Christ is rejected, then there is no hope.
Justification by faith is the only valid way.
False teachings must be denounced.
Christians must be warned against false teachers.
The Galatians ought to have known better.
They had been delivered from pagan bondage.
Now they were retreating back into darkness.
If they gave up on the cross, then they were lost.
False gospels don't save but damn people.
Notice how Paul once again applies the curse.
False teachers promote blessings
But they can only produce a curse on people.
God's judgement is on all who twist the truth.

Revelation 22:18-19 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of

the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

Study 13

Galatians 1:10 For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.

Is grace designed to please sinners?

Is grace a way of overlooking sin?

Now - reveals Paul's present position.

Aa a Pharisee he sought to **please** the high priest.

He curried the favour of the religious.

Acts 9:1-2 And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.

He was **now** a **servant of Christ**.

Because of this he had to speak the truth.

His authority **now** was the Word of **God**.

His commission was to preach the Gospel.

Men or God? Where did his message originate?

Paul suffered much for his dedication to **Christ**.

Basically, he doesn't care what **men** think.

He wasn't going to be silent about grace.

We don't please **men** but **God** alone.

We must speak out against false teaching.

It is dragging souls down to Hell.

If Paul was a man-pleaser he wouldn't condemn.

If he was, why did the false teachers hate him?

He did not preach the doctrines of men.

His message was of the power of the Holy Spirit.

False teachers love lies.

All they could do was slander him.

In fact, false teachers are the men-pleasers.

They please themselves and each other.

John 5:44 How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?

Servant of Christ: not of Moses or the Law.

He was no longer a servant of the high priest.

Now he was totally dedicated to **Christ**.

Cannot serve both.

Matthew 6:24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Paul didn't seek flattery.

He would have been perturbed if he received it.

Luke 6:26 Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets.

The Christian's joy is to **please God**.

Paul lived to glorify **Christ**.

Hebrews 11:5-6 By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God. But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Study 14

Galatians 1:11 But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man.

Paul's teaching is the **Gospel** of Christ.

Grace is not the invention of **man**.

The truth was revealed on the Damascus Road.

Certify: a guarantee of truth.

Paul is reminding the Galatians about the facts.

Brethren: tenderness shines through the rebuke.

As **brethren** they belonged to Christ.

Speaks of his love for, and his unity with, them.

Paul is here laying out the facts of his commission.

What he **preached** was God's word.

This is either blasphemy or absolute truth.
Judaizers claimed he has no apostolic authority.
He wasn't commissioned by Jerusalem.
Paul is stating that he needs no man's approval.
I certify makes this very clear.

Not after man: **man** here is a racial term.
He was under no human or religious authority.
His teaching can't be measured by human thought.
The Judaizers didn't have God's authority.
Jerusalem was allowing religion to direct them.
The Gospel had been diluted by the Law there.
They were influenced by the Pharisee sect.
Paul had been authorised directly by **Christ**.
To claim he wasn't an apostle is foolishness.
He wasn't ordained by men.
He needed no certificate from Jerusalem.
His message didn't come from his mind.
He did not conform to man's ideals.

Study 15

Galatians 1:12 For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it , but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Paul taught New Testament (Covenant) truth.

Termed "The Sum of Christian Doctrine".

- * Jesus is the Messiah.

- * Faith in Him alone for salvation.

His sacrifice both fulfils and supersedes the Law.

This revelation was revealed while in Arabia.

Received: not *learned* but **received** by **revelation**.

Gamaliel couldn't teach Paul these truths.

Notice **I** - it reveals his independence from the 12.

Reaffirms that no human taught him.

Instead the **revelation** came from the Holy Spirit.

Gamaliel taught him the Law rather than grace.

Acts 22:3 I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day.

Jesus taught him grace.

Proving that the message must not be changed.

Once the cross is ignored, Christianity fails.

Religion will quickly fill the void.

The salvation of souls is at stake here.

No salvation outside of Christ and the cross.

Paul fully understood his God-given responsibility.

He was determined to keep the message pure.

Revelation means to remove that which conceals.

Here it means to uncover or make plain the truth.

The truth that was previously veiled.

Ephesians 1:9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself.

Here is Paul's explanation of the **revelation**.

Ephesians 3:3-11 How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel: Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power. Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; And to make all men see what is the

fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Revelation imparts the ability to understand.

Jesus personally reveal the gospel to Paul.

It is indeed the **revelation of Jesus Christ**.

His divinity, ministry and Messiahship.

Religion can never understand the true gospel.

1 Corinthians 2:10,14 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. **14** But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Such claims may seem presumptuous.

Mohammed, Joseph Smith, made similar claims.

But the Holy Spirit totally backed up Paul.

Paul reveals the true meaning of OT symbols.

The Old Covenant prepared for the New.

Only the New Covenant eternally saves.

Revelation reveals what God already stated.

Paul simply restated the Old Covenant revelations.

If Paul had remained a Pharisee

We would not be discussing this today.

Study 16

Galatians 1:13 For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it.

Paul now reveals his life before conversion.

He speaks of the radical change that took place.

Reminds us that he opposed Christianity.

Conversation: lifestyle, way of life.

Fully dedicated to Judaism.

Philippians 3:3-5 For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh. Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of

the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee.

He was a Jew by birth.

He was a **Pharisee** by theology.

He was zealous for the Law.

He was zealous in persecuting Christians.

Ye hath heard: they knew the facts.

The transformation was total.

He had been relentlessly religious.

Now he was passionately preaching the gospel.

Jews religion: this was the source of his lifestyle.

He was taught the interpretations of the Law.

Man's interpretations hide the truth.

Mark 7:7 **Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.**

Colossians 2:20-23 Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances, (Touch not; taste not; handle not; Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men? Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh.

What Judaism teaches no is longer the Law.

The interpretations are additions to the Law.

These additions eventually became Judaism.

Notice Paul writes **Jew's religion** rather than faith.

He is saying that Judaism was corrupted.

Why are Christians adopting Jewish practices?

Religion: This is man's attempt to please **God**.

Religion cannot ever please **God**.

True Biblical faith is not **religion**.

Religion is a code of ethics.

All the world's religions are based on works.

This includes Judaism.

Christianity isn't a **religion**, it's a relationship.

Judaizers were imposing **religion**.

Paul used the word *loudaismos* (Gk).

A word of contempt for pagan religions.

Salvation by works is pagan.

Religion: regulations, rituals, rites, rules.

Jude :3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

We must stand for the truth.

Wasted: that's where his Jewish piety took him.

He had murder in his heart.

He was part of the Taliban of his day.

Church of God: not Judaism but the church.

Christianity alone is the **church of God**.

Paul left Judaism to join the **church**.

Study 17

Galatians 1:14 And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers.

Paul points to his extreme hostility to Christianity.

He was Judaism's poster boy.

He was a true representative of the **religion**.

Only Christ could have converted Paul.

Profited: he was the best, most zealous.

He studied hard to get the highest grades.

He acted upon his beliefs.

Gamaliel awarded him five stars in everything.

Paul was groomed to be religiously wicked.

Traditions: notice it wasn't Bible truths.

He was indoctrinated, brainwashed from a boy.

Fathers: not the Law, but man's interpretation.

Every thought and action was governed by this.

The Law pointed to the need of the Saviour.

Religion is the attempt to work for salvation.

Religions (**traditions**) cannot save.

All he believed were additions to God's Word.

These **traditions** replaced the Scriptures.

Traditions: that which has been handed down.

The word isn't used in the Old Testament.

Comes from Rabbis in the Maccabean period.

The Pharisees were influenced by Paganism.

They read the Bible through Greek philosophy.

Colossians 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the

world, and not after Christ.

This is where the church is today.

This makes the Word of God ineffective.

Matthew 15:3,6 But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition? **6** And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.

Mark 7:8-9, 13 For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition. **13** Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.

The apostle's **traditions** pointed to Christ.

The **traditions** of the Judaizers pointed to Moses.

Apostolic tradition never contradicts Scripture.
Commentaries that cause doubt must be avoided.
Preachers who teach works should be ignored.
False teachers always demand obedience.
Their rules, views, **religion** must be practiced.

Acts 5:29 Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

Paul abandoned **traditions** for the truth.

Study 18

Galatians 1:15 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace.

God Himself accomplished Paul's conversion.

No human agency involved.

Pleased: it was God's doing.

Separated: **God** set him apart for a purpose.

Similar to Samson, Jeremiah, John the Baptist.

He was **called** to preach grace.

God's hand was on him even before he was born.

He allowed him to be indoctrinated by Gamaliel.

He allowed him to learn all the **traditions**.

Paul was in the best place to spot false teaching.

He knew what he was talking about.

It **pleased God** to totally transform him.

Mother's womb has a deeper application.

Pharisees saw themselves as *separated ones*.

They were chosen after they graduated.

Paul graduated by God's **grace**.

Their *calling* was of special merit.

Paul's calling was all of **grace**.

Salvation is by **grace** not hard work.

Romans 5:15-16 But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification. For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.) Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free

gift came upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

Ephesians 2:5-8 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.

Called: Paul's calling was according to **grace**.

He was **called** to teach and preach **grace**.

He was **called** out of Judaism.

He was **called** from an evil state.

Acts 9:3-6 And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.

God's **grace** was upon him.

1 Corinthians 15:8-10 And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time. For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I

laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

So it didn't matter what his accusers said.

Paul gives the glory to **God**.

He deserved none of what **God called** him to.

Our salvation is identical to Paul's

Our calling is different (positionally).

Faith in Christ alone guarantees salvation.

The method was, is and remains the Cross.

Acts 2:21 **And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.**

Acts 4:12 **Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.**

Study 19

Galatians 1:16-17 To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood: Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus.

Paul states he received the message from God.

Independent from any human theology.

This was by the revelation of the Holy Spirit.

Reveal: what was it God revealed to him?

It wasn't the Law, but the one the Law pointed to.

His Son: this is what all Scripture is about.

Luke 24:44-47 And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be

fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

This is what the Jews failed to see.

The true salvation of **God**.

1 Corinthians 1:30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.

This revelation started on the Damascus Road.

The Light was Christ Himself.

The Light not only shone on but also **in** Paul.

2 Corinthians 4:6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Preach: such a **revelation** must be preached.

The Message of the Cross is for all.

Not the Law of Moses, but the Gospel of Christ.

Paul preached **Him**, which includes the Cross.

He grasped the true meaning of the Law.

Preached Jesus as the fulfilment of the Law.

Conferred not: no discussion group set up.

No conference, consultation or steering committee.

Such would have hindered the Gospel.

Flesh and blood: weakness, ignorance.

No human input to affect the message.

Immediately: that's how important it was.

Paul needed to get away from man.

He need to get alone with **God**.

The Holy Spirit allowed no interference.

Paul went to **Arabia** for three years.

It is here the Lord taught him the New Covenant.

Jerusalem: the headquarters of the church.

Apostles: the spiritual leaders of the church.

Remember that the Judaizers came from here.

Arabia: included Damascus, Jordan and Edom.

Maybe he chose some secluded spot.

The light shone on the Damascus Road ...

It intensified in **Arabia**.

Chronology of events:

- * Paul preached in **Damascus**.
- * Went to **Arabia**.
- * Three years later went to **Jerusalem**.

During these three years:

- * Jesus blasted away the traditions.
- * The Rabbinical interpretations were destroyed.
- * All man made laws became rubble.
- * The true reason for the Law was revealed.
- * The message of the Cross was revealed.
- * Paul understood what grace is.

Damascus: before going on to **Jerusalem**.

Why return to **Damascus**?

He first went there to destroy the church.

Now he was going there to rebuild the church.

What a glorious transformation!

Study 20

Galatians 1:18-19 Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days. But other of the apostles saw I none, save James the Lord's brother.

Barnabas was part of this.

Acts 9:26-29 And when Saul was come to Jerusalem, he assayed to join himself to the disciples: but they were all afraid of him, and believed not that he was a disciple. But Barnabas took him, and brought him to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. And he was with them coming in and going out at Jerusalem. And he spake boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus, and disputed against the Grecians: but they went about to slay him.

Some were afraid concerning Paul's motives.

Others were worried about this *new* teaching.

Three years: 3 years away from human influence.

Three years after his conversion.

His short visit to **Damascus** was eventful.

Acts 9:19-25 And when he had received meat, he was strengthened. Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus. And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God. But all that heard him were amazed, and said; Is not this he that destroyed them which called on this name in Jerusalem, and came hither for that intent, that he might bring them bound unto the chief priests? But Saul increased the more in strength, and confounded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus, proving that this is very Christ. And after that many days were fulfilled, the Jews took counsel to kill him: But their laying await was known of Saul. And they watched the gates day and night to kill him.

Then the disciples took him by night, and let him down by the wall in a basket.

He was not in any way opposed to the apostles.

His problem was with the Judaizers.

The Gospel isn't subject to denominations.

Committees put their own personal bias first.

Paul didn't go to *consult* but to *teach* the truth.

He was in **Jerusalem** for **fifteen days**.

Peter: was he the acting leader at this time?

He had already preached to the Gentiles.

Paul wanted him to understand the gospel.

Paul probably learned more about Christ's life.

A mature, godly interchange of experiences.

Peter could have kicked him out as a heretic.

Peter was honouring Christianity's chief opponent!

Peter must have realised the transformation.

They must have discussed the true gospel.

Paul went to **see Peter** and **saw** James.

The words refer to a cordial visit.

Paul didn't go to get permission to preach.

The Judaizers claimed they were authorised.

Paul tells us that he and **Peter** agreed.

Peter, James and Paul were equally apostles.

Other apostles I saw none: no seeking approval.

He specifically names **James, the Lord's brother**

This **James** was not of the original twelve.

Initially he refused to believe in Jesus.

So why were the Judaizers denouncing Paul?

Surely they should reject **James** too!

This **James** was accepted as an apostle.

The 'apostle **James**' was the **brother** of John.

The **James** Paul **saw** was **the Lord's brother**.

This **James** became part of the legalistic group.

The group that opposed Paul.

Acts 21:18-36 And the day following Paul went in with us unto James; and all the elders were present. And when he had saluted them, he declared particularly what things God had wrought among the Gentiles by his ministry. And when they heard it, they glorified the Lord, and said unto him, Thou seest, brother, how many thousands of Jews there are which believe; and they are all zealous of the law: And they are informed of thee, that thou teachest all the Jews which are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, saying that they ought not to circumcise their children, neither to walk after the customs. What is it therefore? the multitude must needs come together: for they will hear that thou art come. Do therefore this that we say to thee: We have four men which have a vow on them; Them take, and purify thyself with them, and be at charges with them, that they may shave their heads: and all may know that those things, whereof they were informed concerning thee, are nothing; but that thou thyself also walkest orderly, and keepest the law. As touching the Gentiles which believe, we have written and concluded that they observe no such thing, save only that they

keep themselves from things offered to idols, and from blood, and from strangled, and from fornication. Then Paul took the men, and the next day purifying himself with them entered into the temple, to signify the accomplishment of the days of purification, until that an offering should be offered for every one of them. And when the seven days were almost ended, the Jews which were of Asia, when they saw him in the temple, stirred up all the people, and laid hands on him, Crying out, Men of Israel, help: This is the man, that teacheth all men every where against the people, and the law, and this place: and further brought Greeks also into the temple, and hath polluted this holy place. (For they had seen before with him in the city Trophimus an Ephesian, whom they supposed that Paul had brought into the temple.) And all the city was moved, and the people ran together: and they took Paul, and drew him out of the temple: and forthwith the doors were shut. And as they went about to kill him, tidings came unto the chief captain of the band, that all Jerusalem was in an uproar. Who immediately took soldiers and centurions, and ran down unto them: and when they saw the

chief captain and the soldiers, they left beating of Paul. Then the chief captain came near, and took him, and commanded him to be bound with two chains; and demanded who he was, and what he had done. And some cried one thing, some another, among the multitude: and when he could not know the certainty for the tumult, he commanded him to be carried into the castle. And when he came upon the stairs, so it was, that he was borne of the soldiers for the violence of the people. For the multitude of the people followed after, crying, Away with him.

Paul appears to have compromised his position.

The compromise didn't stop the persecution.

The compromise caused more problems.

Study 21

Galatians 1:20-24 Now the things which I write unto you, behold, before God, I lie not. Afterwards I came into the regions of Syria and Cilicia; And was unknown by face unto the churches of Judaea which were in Christ: But they had heard only, That he which persecuted us in times past now preacheth the faith which once he destroyed. And they glorified God in me.

The Judaizers lied about Paul and his calling.

They lied about their apostolic authority.

Paul stands up to them.

I write: plain truth, no deception.

He writes about God's word - the New Covenant.

I lie not: this is a legal phrase. Paul's oath.

The words **before God** bears this out.

Paul appeals to **God** as his authority for letter.

After Jerusalem he preaches in **Syria** and **Cilicia**.

Paul is out of the picture for a few years.

Then Barnabas went to find him in Tarsus.

Acts 11:25 Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus,
for to seek Saul.

Tarsus was part of **Cilicia**.

This was Paul's field of labour.

Few knew anything much about him.

By this time most had forgotten him.

God hadn't forgotten Paul though.

He wasn't flavour of the month in Jerusalem.

They only **heard** rumours about him.

They may have known about his ministry.

They remembered him for his old life.

Acts 9:1-2 And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.

Some rejoiced that he was an ongoing Christian.

He was **unknown by face** - few knew him.

The faith here refers the truth - the gospel.

He preached **Christ** not Moses.

The New Covenant in **Christ**.

This is what the Judaizers opposed.

Faith not works, law or morals.

The destroyer of churches became a builder.

How the Judean churches rejoiced!

They thanked **God** for his conversion.

They accepted him as one of their own.

So we see that the Judaizers were lying.

They wouldn't forgive him for what he taught.

No one but they had a problem with Paul.

They were the ones who caused all the problems.

Study 22

Galatians 2:1 Then fourteen years after I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and took Titus with me also.

Referring to the unity between apostles and Paul.

There was no essential disagreement.

He would never compromise the truth anyway.

Fourteen years after: after he delivered aid?

Acts 11:27-29 And in these days came prophets from Jerusalem unto Antioch. And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the Spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar. Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judaea: Which also they did, and sent it to the elders by the hands

of Barnabas and Saul.

It could have been at the time of the council.

See **Acts 15:1-35**.

There is some discussion about this.

Barnabas: a well-beloved, mature Christian.

He was **the son of consolation** **Acts 9:27**.

He befriended Paul when no one else would.

Invited Paul to share in his ministry.

Acts 11:25-26 Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul: And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.

With Paul on his first missionary journey.

Acts 13:1-3 Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

Paul is making it clear he wasn't a rebel.

He maintained God gave him the message.

No apostles opposed him.

Barnabas had accepted him.

Even after **fourteen years** there wasn't an issue.

He wasn't working in dependant of the apostles.

But, he was ordained by Christ not the apostles.

He had laboured **fourteen years** with their input.

Titus: was a gentile believer.

Taken to **Jerusalem** to prove a point.

Gentiles could be saved without the Law.

Circumcision was totally unnecessary.

Circumcision was deemed to be a false gospel.

No one compelled **Titus** to be circumcised.

To do so would mean that Christ was insufficient.

Titus eventually pastored a church in Crete.

Tradition suggests he ministered until he was 94.

Study 23

Galatians 2:2 And I went up by revelation, and communicated unto them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to them which were of reputation, lest by any means I should run, or had run, in vain.

This was a very important business meeting.

The great foundation of faith was explained.

Revelation: God ordained that Paul attended.

He wanted them to understand the New Covenant.

Revelation of God rather than apostolic request.

Paul was commissioned by God.

He was to **communicate** the **gospel** to them.

This is likely to be Peter, James and John at first.

Preach: Paul only had one **gospel** to **preach**.

1 Corinthians 2:2 **For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.**

That is, the message of the cross.

He never deviated from this after Athens.

Justification by faith not works, rituals or religion.

Gentiles: Specific mention of the **Gentiles**.

What saved the **Gentiles** saves the Jews.

Acts 15 proves that the apostles accepted this.

The **Gentiles** didn't need the Law of Moses.

Those who clung to Moses caused the problem.

The Law eventually destroyed the Jewish church.

Why? They could not understand the grace.

2 Peter 3:15-16 **And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as**

our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

They rejected grace in favour of the Law.

Even James found it difficult to grasp grace.

Galatians 2:12 For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision.

Those who **came from James** promoted works.

This totally contradicted grace in every way.

Reputation: '*dokousin*' (Gk) the recognised ones.

Paul taught the apostles privately about grace.

He didn't seek to embarrass or undermine them.

Peter ought to have understood. See **Acts 10**.

In vain: this infers that Paul highly respected them.

He didn't want to see two gospels or two churches.

He wanted the battle to stop.

A decision needed to be reached.

Acts 15:22-29 Then pleased it the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; namely, Judas surnamed Barsabas, and Silas, chief men among the brethren: And they wrote letters by them after this manner; The apostles and elders and brethren send greeting unto the brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia: Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, Ye must be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no such commandment: It seemed good unto us, being assembled with

one accord, to send chosen men unto you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, Men that have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We have sent therefore Judas and Silas, who shall also tell you the same things by mouth. For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things; That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well.

The Judaizers were acting contrary to the apostles. James later recognised his error (see his letter).

Study 24

Galatians 2:3-5 But neither Titus, who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised: And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage: To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.

Paul hated division in the church.

Unfortunately there are always those who do.

Titus was brought to emphasis a point.

No one asked **Titus** to be **circumcised**.

Circumcision unnecessary for salvation.

Why then we're the Judaizers demanding it?

Titus is referred to as **Greek** = Gentile.

He bravely agreed to be the test case.

Our freedom from the Law originates with this.

Compelled: demanded, forced.

Here is Paul's defence of the **gospel**.

Nothing but faith is required for salvation.

But the Judaizers wanted believers in **bondage**.

False brethren: false teachers.

Taught that Christians must adopt Jewish rites.

This was a denial of Christ's sufficiency.

Unawares: under pretence of being true believers.

The word means '*smuggled in*' - they were liars.

They were lying about apostolic authority.

Liberty: directly opposite to **bondage**.

True **liberty** is found only **in Christ Jesus**.

Circumcision = **bondage**.

Liberty from what? The Law!

We have the ...

Perfect law of liberty James 1:25.

Romans 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

1 Corinthians 9:21 To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law.

This is what Paul was referring to in ...

Romans 8:1-2 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

No Christian should be influenced by Jewish rites.

Bondage: abject spiritual poverty.

Paul refused to compromise the message of grace.

Subjection: he would not budge from the cross.

He withstood all error at every point.

No compromise even in the smallest detail.

False brethren preach a false gospel.

Only the **gospel** of truth **saves** souls.

Legalism is false and damnable.

True **gospel** is in **Christ** and the cross alone.

How do we know the difference?

Check the fruit!

Matthew 7:15-20 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a

corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

No other gospel.

Galatians 1:6-7 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.

Study 25

Galatians 2:6-8 But of these who seemed to be somewhat, (whatsoever they were, it maketh no matter to me: God accepteth no man's person:) for they who seemed to be somewhat in conference added nothing to me: But contrariwise, when they saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me, as the gospel of the circumcision was unto Peter; (For he that wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision, the same was mighty in me toward the Gentiles:)

Paul respected the leaders in Jerusalem.

He didn't respect any error that was taught.

His only concern was that the truth be upheld.

Somewhat: same as **reputation** **Galatians 2:2**.

Putting position and authority above Scripture.

Believing they were superior to Paul.

Respecter: accepteth no man's' person.

They were with Jesus for three years - so what?

2 Corinthians 5:16 Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more.

Because they saw Jesus didn't make them special.

The word of God is pre-eminent over experience.

God had called Paul to preach in Gentile lands.

Uncircumcised: the Jerusalem church agreed.

When they saw: they could not deny the facts.

Not two gospels.

Speaks of geographical regions they preached in.

Paul often preached to Jews.

Peter often preached to Gentiles.

But they both had the same **gospel**.

Peter wasn't superior to Paul, instead equals.

Same **God**, same gospel being preached.

Effectually: no discrimination.

This implies the same gospel.

If not it would have been confusing.

Same Messiah for both Jews and Gentiles.

Wrought: 'energeo' (Gk) - evident power of **God**.

Couldn't be if there were two gospels.

Both Peter and Paul were called of **God**.

No hierarchy in their meetings.

Peter couldn't pull rank on Paul.

Mightily: same Greek word as **wrought**.

The gospel should never be modified.

Same saving grace for everyone.

1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time. For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. Therefore

whether it were I or they, so we preach, and so ye believed.

Here is Paul's stand for the truth.

The gospel is not ethnically defined.

Study 26

Galatians 2:9-10 And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision. Only they would that we should remember the poor; the same which I also was forward to do.

The order of names may indicate seniority.

James being the pastor.

Peter doing missionary work.

John an elder of the church.

James presided over the first church council.

Pillars: Moses was the pillar of Judaism.

Pillars refer to supporting columns of a building.

Peter was not the foundation rock of the church.

Seemed to be: reputed to be.

This wasn't casting doubt on their reputation.

These men were tightly held in esteem.

Grace: this means the authority God gave.

Likely reference to the message God gave them.

Fellowship: pledge of friendship and agreement.

Notice **hands** (plural) - total acceptance.

The idea is that they covenanted with Paul.

They had a common undertaking / partnership.

Paul and Barnabas were fully recognised.

Heathen: the non-Jewish lands.

Notice there is no mention of a different gospel.

There was some overlapping of their ministries.

This indicates *direction* rather than ethnic groups.

The outcome could have been sour.

There was harmony, agreement and unity.

They regard each other as brothers in Christ.

Stopped the church becoming Jewish.

Stopped the church becoming Gentile.

Poor: here is one important decision made.

Money raised was not to sustain the leadership.

It was to help the **poor** believers in Jerusalem.

They were destitute because of persecution.

The famine probably affected them to.

Acts 11:27-30 And in these days came prophets from Jerusalem unto Antioch. And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the Spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar. Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judaea: Which also they did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

Remember: to benefit, care for.

Both Gentiles and Jews needed to support.

Paul wholeheartedly agreed to this.

Study 27

Galatians 2:11-12 But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed. For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision.

Antioch became the headquarters of evangelism.

Not Antioch in Turkey but the one in Syria.

The second most powerful city in the East.

Any kind of religion was acceptable there.

It is here that **Peter** visited Cornelius. See **Acts 10**.

He freely ate with the Gentiles of **Antioch**.

The Judaizers were offended by this.

Withstood: openly rebuked **Peter**.

Not done privately.

He was reprimanded publicly to embarrass him.

Peter had compromised with false religion.

He influenced others to do the same.

His actions were undermining grace.

Paul was defending the truth of the gospel.

Compromise is a Satanic scheme.

It encourages a change to the gospel.

Blamed: guilty of offending God.

Peter's actions caused the following:

- * Christians in Jerusalem were unhappy.

- * Christians in **Antioch** were unhappy.

Compromise makes no one happy!

Paul had to speak out against **Peter**.

James: **James** is mention as the origin of problem.

Maybe he held to the superiority of Judaism.

He was obviously still bound by the Law.

He must have backtracked on his word.

Sent men to enforce Jewish law on Gentiles.

How easily people follow men rather than God.

Peter tried to stand in both camps.

Eat: Peter's vision confirmed this. See **Acts 10**.

No problem eating non-kosher food.

Eat also implies fellowship in communal meals.

Judaizers enforced dietary laws too.

The Pharisees took the same position with Jesus.

Such segregation would have been disastrous.

Withdrew: retreated back into Judaism.

A modern term would be 'backslide'.

Separated: avoided the Gentile believers.

Fearing: feared those in Jerusalem.

This wasn't an 'honest mistake' by **Peter**.

He caved in under pressure.

He played the hypocrite.

Unfortunately others followed him in this.

Study 28

Galatians 2:13-14 And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation. But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before them all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews?

Here is the result of Peter's compromise.

Our conduct always has consequences.

Dissembled: the word '*hypocrite*', comes from this.

Means 'to conceal one's real character'.

They went back into Jewish practices.

Not even Jewish Christians should practice this.

This compromise was to appease the Judaizers.

Basically they defected back into the Law.

Dissimulation: same meaning as **dissembled**.

Barnabas, Paul's close friend, was guilty too.

He had seen the mighty works of God.

He had heard the council's decision.

His defection was a serious blow to Paul.

How quickly false doctrine can spread!

The false gospel was seen as superior to grace.

Paul endeavoured to stand for the true gospel.

Not uprightly: not with straight feet - crooked.

Paul openly confronted and rebuked them all.

He especially highlights Peter's error.

According: they were following a crooked gospel.

They **walked** opposite to the gospel of Christ.

Why did Paul do this so publicly?

Peter's error wasn't accidental but on purpose.

He compelled others to copy his error.

Compellest: persuaded.

Peter wholeheartedly defected from grace.

He was trying to change them into **Jews**.

Live: the foundational principle of life.

Saying that Judaism was the means of life.

Peter had cast off Jewish customs.

Now he was practicing them again.

He was teaching the Gentiles to do likewise.

He believed that Jewish rites were required.

The Gentiles needed to be in the Jewish Roots!

Truth of the Gospel: which is the cross of Christ.

Many have a **gospel**, but not the **truth**.

These men were walking opposite to **truth**.

They knew the **gospel** but chose to be hypocrites.

No wonder Paul was agitated.

Justification was by faith not works.

Do Gentiles need to become Jewish?

The **truth of the gospel** forbids this.

Study 29

Galatians 2:15-16 We who are Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles, Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

Paul now states exactly what the gospel is.

Nature: **Jews** by birth rather than proselytes.

As such they should have known God's word.

Implies that Jewish prejudice had to be overcome.

Thinking they were better than the **Gentiles**.

Sinners: **Jews** were not born into a pagan society.

The **Gentiles** didn't have the blessings of God.

The **Jews** had forsaken God and their privileges.

Their privileges didn't make them superior though.

Justification is always by **faith** rather than **works**.

Law: **Law** of Moses - no salvation in it.

The **Law** couldn't justify only condemn.

Their **faith** was in the **Law** - the observation of it.

Faith: **faith** in **Christ** not **works** or religion.

The faith of Jesus Christ is the facts of the cross.

There is no possible way but through the cross.

Salvation through personal merit always fails.

Faith in what **Jesus** accomplished on the cross.

Believed: the **we** of **:16** is the same as in **:15**.

This belief means full trust in **Christ** alone.

It is personal commitment to Him as Saviour.

Justified: **Jesus** took our guilt on the cross.

This must involve imputed righteousness.

The word **by** means *through*, that is, a channel.

Notice **no flesh** - **Jews** or **Gentile**.

This emphatic statement sets the scene.

No type of **work** can **justify** anyone.

So why impose Jewish rites on the **Gentiles**?

Teaching people they can earn salvation.

Works (brownie points) can't save the soul.

Works always undermine and bury the truth.

Doing religion actually damns the soul.

Religion thinks it deserves God's grace.

Grace comes by believing in Christ's sacrifice.

John 1:29 Behold the Lamb of God, which
taketh away the sin of the world.

The **Law** sets the standard for holiness.

The **flesh** cannot completely obey it.

Only **Jesus** could, and He did in our place.

Three errors in the church today:

- * *Legalism*: salvation through the **Law**.

- * *Antinomianism*: there are no laws.

We can sin as much as we want.

- * *Galatianism*: mixing grace and law.

This is the most subtle error.

A dependance on works for sanctification.

Remember this is what Galatians is about.

Study 30

Galatians 2:17 But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid.

Paul answers question about justification by faith.

Judaizers thought this teaching was dangerous.

They thought grace implied liberty to **sin**.

Yes, the hyper-grace crowd were there too.

Christ isn't responsible for the error.

Justified: justified by Christ rather than ability.

Therefore only He can justify **sinners**.

Seek: we must want to be **justified**.

Justification isn't automatic because we have faith.

Seeking it reveals we can't do it ourselves.

Jews and Gentiles need the same justification.

Jews believed obeying the Law **justified** them.

They saw Gentiles as the worst of **sinners**.

Yet the Jews constantly broke their own Law.

Romans 3:9 What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin.

Minister: Christ does not condone **sin** in anyone.

Ridiculing grace is the same as ridiculing **Christ**.

The Law can only define what sin is.

It basically gives us the knowledge of what **sin** is.

It is:

2 Corinthians 3:7 The ministration of death.

2 Corinthians 3:9 The ministration of condemnation.

So it's the Law that is the **minister of sin**.

It cannot offer justification.

If the Law is added to grace both fail.

If grace is preached as a license to sin then ...

The preacher makes **Christ the minister of sin**.

God forbid: what a terrible thought!

Jesus didn't come to define **sin**.

That was the ministration of the Law.

Jesus came to deal with **sin** itself.

He broke the power of **sin** by fulfilling the Law.

1 Corinthians 15:56 **The sting of death is sin;
and the strength of sin is the law.**

The Law was designed to convince us of **sin**.

Grace was designed to justify us before God.

Faith - depends on which we believe.

If the Law - then it must be completely obeyed.

If it is grace - **Christ** must be completely obeyed.

Only He can make us acceptable to God.

Romans 8:1-3 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh.

Study 31

Galatians 2:18-19 For if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God.

To go back to legalism makes a person sinful.

Build again: reference to Peter's reversal.

Peter knew that dietary laws were not needed.

He accepted that circumcision wasn't required.

But he still retreated back into Judaism.

Through the gospel these were **destroyed**.

Transgressor: breaker of the law - condemned.

Therefore separated from the grace of **God**.

Not done ignorantly but purposely.

All are guilty sinners before **God**.

But legalisms are actually insulting **God**.

Religious rites only gratify the flesh.

Give the flesh a cloak of piety.

Paul was not going back to the **Law**.

Why? It cannot ever justify the sinner.

Nor can it sanctify the saint.

Dead to the law: doesn't infer antinomianism.

He accepts the place and ministration of the **Law**.

It reveals the holy standard that man cannot attain.

Dead: not living under the law's condemnation.

It has no more claim or control over us now.

It is not an alternative means of justification.

It diagnoses the sickness, but isn't the remedy.

The power of the **Law** is three-fold:

- * To pronounce man a sinner.
- * To punish sinful man.
- * To reveal man's need for the Saviour.

The Law's controlling factor is set aside for us.

Through: by means of.

Means he once practiced the **Law**.

Came to understand, by it, he can't be saved.

Romans 7 is an excellent commentary on this.

The Law wasn't designed to bring assurance.

Romans 7:24-25 **O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.**

Live: Not **through** the **Law** but **through Christ**.

Eternal life can only be found in **Christ**.

Live refers to our everyday life in **God**.

The **Law** prevents us living for **God**.

The **Law** isn't **dead**, but we are to it.

The **Law** brought a curse.

Galatians 3:10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.

Every detail must be obeyed to avoid the curse.

If we could, we wouldn't need **Christ**.

Salvation, justification, sanctification is by faith.

Romans 4:5 But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

We must follow the Holy Spirit rather than the **Law**.

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

We have been set free from the **Law**.

Romans 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

Here is the how and why:

Romans 8:3-4 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

The Holy Spirit empowers us to keep God's **Law**.

Study 32

Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Paul speaks of crucifixion and **life** (resurrection).

This is the only basis for our union **with Christ**.

Crucified: the tense refers to a past event.

We aren't being **crucified** over a period of time.

I am crucified with Christ - identification.

Identification **with Christ** through His death.

Confirms we are indeed dead to the Law.

The Law's requirements fully met by Jesus.

I am refers to the death of the self-life.

All that we were, or could be, is dead.

The old life is dead and buried forever.

The dominating power of the sin nature broken.

Grace dynamically affects the way we **live**.

The cross isn't just for salvation, but sanctification.

It is designed to work its power in daily **life**.

Victory over sin, self and Satan through the cross.

Luke 9:23 **And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.**

This is what Paul is talking about here.

Answer to every difficulty, problem and sin.

This is where **faith** comes in.

Notice Jesus said "*daily*", every day until the end.

This is how the Holy Spirit gives us the power.

Live: dead to the Law but alive in **Christ**.

This **life** is the resurrection **life** of **Christ** in us.

No resurrection without the cross.

No power of **life** in the Law. Why?

The Law is dead to us, and we to it.

Romans 6:4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Romans 6:5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection.

Romans 6:11 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 7:6 But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter.

Deliverance from sin opens the door to new **life**.

Yet not I: no clinging to self-righteousness, merit.

Now it's a Christ-centred **life**.

New **life** isn't a possession but a person.

It isn't a reconditioned old **life**.

It is **Christ** *in* us rather than self - **not I**.

Christ: He is the source of our everyday walk.

We died on the cross **with Christ**.

His resurrection **life** is in us.

He is living in us - **Christ liveth in me**.

If we don't believe this there can be no victory.

If we revert to works there can be no victory.

This is the point Paul is making.

Liveth: to **live** a **life** continuously.

Christ must **live** in us daily.

He won't be an idle bystander.

Study 33

Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

True **life** can only be found and lived in Jesus.

The word **now** reveals that it is a new **life**.

The old life under the Law and sin is gone.

It has been surrendered to **God**.

The **now life** must be lived in **Christ** continuously.

Flesh - the body - salvation affects our lifestyle.

Faith: not by the Law but **faith** in **Christ**.

This **faith** is **of the Son of God** - Jesus.

Many accept **Christ** but ignore Him daily.

This is a perilous situation to be in.

This surrender isn't for salvation but separation.

Romans 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

The believer must surrender totally to **God**.

How many have presented themselves to Him.

Few actually **live** this kind of **faith**.

Such surrender is in fact total dependence on Him.

By **faith** we become partakers of **life**.

The cross saves us - brings us to **life**.

The cross must be worn daily to stay in this **life**.

Luke 9:23 And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

This is **faith** lived out on a daily basis.

Loved: this is the love of **God** for sinners.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

God so **loved** that He **gave** the **Son** for us.

Jesus **gave Himself** for us.

The power of **life** is found only in Him.

Referring to His death on the cross.

He died that we might **live**.

He died for the whole world.

But He died for **me**.

His death on Calvary is universal - for all.

It is only applied by **faith** in the finished work.

This is how His love is applied ...

Not universally but individually.

This is the way grace works too.

We are no longer what we were.

The Blood transfusion transformed our lives.

Study 34

Galatians 2:21 I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

Paul's objection to the Judaizers in a nutshell.

Now he deals with their false doctrines.

If what they say is true, there is no need for **Christ**.

Justification by works undermines **grace**.

Earning salvation is praiseworthy to the flesh.

Frustrate: to nullify, make void, cast off.

Adding works to **grace** makes it void.

The victory of the cross is no longer able to work.

Salvation and sanctification are without price.

Isaiah 55:1 Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine

and milk without money and without price.

Religion says "I can do it".

Relationship says "**Christ** did it".

Righteousness: not available through the **Law**.

This implies any type of law to be saved.

Not by psychology, Christian or otherwise.

Psychology is Satan's tool to avoid Calvary.

How can someone get right with **God**.

Religion? Psychology? Philosophy? Morality?

Romans 5:1 **Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Conforming to any *law* makes this void.

Many are going to be shocked on Judgement Day.

They rejected and despised God's plan.

Galatians 3:10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.

Galatians 3:21-22 Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law. But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.

Vain: has the same meaning as **frustrate**.

Paul isn't debasing the **Law** of Moses.

There is an obvious reason for it.

Yet no one could possibly keep it all.

Therefore obedience to it cannot save the soul.

Romans 7:10-13 And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death.

For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me. Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good. Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.

This tells us that we need a Saviour.

The **Law** can only reveal our sinfulness.

Romans 5:20 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.

Grace points us to salvation in **Christ** alone.

1600 years of sacrifices couldn't save.

Romans 10:4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

Not an end of the need for the **Law** as such.

We are *in* **Christ**, so the **Law** isn't our guide now.

Galatians 2:19 For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God.

Therefore **It is finished** **John 19:30**.

The **Law** continues to point out sin.

Colossians 2:8-23 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. And you, being dead in your sins and the

uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ. Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God. Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances, (Touch not; taste not; handle not; Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men? Which things have indeed a shew of

wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh.

Only He perfectly kept the **Law**.

Only He could save us from sin.

Those under the **Law** committed the worst sin:

They crucified their Messiah.

Yet **grace** still availed for them.

Study 35

Galatians 3:1 O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?

Paul now expounds Scripture to prove his point.
He deals with the church members personally.

Galatians: sober tone. Used instead of *brethren*.

Their conduct is irrational and foolish.

Like they've been hypnotised.

They no longer saw **Jesus Christ ... crucified**.

The doctrine of the cross was ignored.

Foolish: no spiritual discernment.

O foolish Galatians: expresses bewilderment.

Jesus said much the same to His disciples.

Luke 24:25-26 Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?

Bewitched: charmed into unbelief.

Greek means *influenced to do evil*.

An evil power was influencing their beliefs.

The word **who** lays the blame on false teachers.

They were Satan's messengers.

They were being controlled by demons.

1 Timothy 4:1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.

Spirits that promote ignorance and rejection.
Everything *must* be evaluated by the Word of God.

Obey not the Truth: this is the outcome.

Obey refers to remaining constantly in Scripture.

Failure to do so leads to religion and tradition.

They were now fascinated by Jewish rituals.

Paul calls this foolishness and futile.

Jesus Christ: Christ ... crucified.

This is the message of grace.

Crucified is in the perfect tense.

Highlights the Finished Work of **Christ** on Cross.

Evidently: made perfectly clear.

Literally: *painted a perfect picture in words.*

Why were they adopting a perverted gospel now?

The message of salvation was being forsaken.

The false teachers caused confusion and doubt.

Galatianism (mixing grace and works) is **foolish**.

They didn't **obey** the **truth** = outside of faith.

Anything outside of faith results in a fall.

This stops the Holy Spirit's work in us.

He only works within the parameters of the cross.

Study 36

Galatians 3:2 This only would I learn of you,
Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law,
or by the hearing of faith?

They held beliefs contrary to what they'd learned.

Paul wanted to answer a simple question.

Only: This implies the fundamental facts.

Abraham believed and was accepted.

The Law was added 400 years later.

The Galatians believed and were saved.

The Judaizers were attempting to add the Law.

Learn: what was their argument against the cross?

Did they get saved by works or grace?

Spirit: the Holy **Spirit** only works within the gospel.

The Spirit isn't the Baptism of the **Spirit** here.

It speaks of the New Birth in Christ.

John 3:5-6 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

It is sinners becoming saints.

Titus 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.

This is regeneration - spiritual renewal / cleansing.

This is how the new birth is **received**.

The old nature is broken.

Makes believers partakers of the divine nature.

All by **faith** in what Jesus did on the cross.

Hearing of faith: believing God's word.

Romans 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing,
and hearing by the word of God.

They heard about salvation in Christ.

The false teachers presented a different gospel.

Faith is the only requirement on our part.

Salvation is by **faith** rather than **law**.

How did the **Spirit** come to abide in them?

He couldn't unless they were saved in Christ.

This is exactly what Jesus promised.

John 14:7 If ye had known me, ye should have
known my Father also: and from henceforth ye
know him, and have seen him.

John 16:7-15 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It
is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go

not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

They will have received the Baptism of the **Spirit**.

This deepens the confusion.

They were grieving the Holy **Spirit**.

The **Spirit** was not working in the Judaizers.

He is not working in the false teachers of today.

Why? They are rejecting the cross.

They may give lip service to it.

But they reject it as the only way of salvation.

That's the answer to Paul's question.

Study 37

Galatians 3:3 Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?

Paul presupposes the only possible answer.

If we begin in faith, we must continue by faith.

Faith and works conflict.

Foolish: beyond (spiritual) reason.

In **:2** it's the Holy **Spirit** and salvation.

In **:3** it's the Holy **Spirit** and sanctification.

It's *who* not *what* brings us to Christian maturity.

It's by faith not works.

It's the Holy **Spirit** not the **flesh**.

He that started the work is working in us.

Philippians 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in

you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.

Everything else is foolishness.

Foolishness is abandoning grace.

The devil makes his lies seem spiritual.

That's why religion is deceptive and damnable.

Religion emphasises the externals.

Spirit: the Holy **Spirit** changed our lives.

He saved us - He sanctifies us.

Made perfect: bring to completion / maturity.

Not so-called sinless perfection as some teach.

A well-balanced, Christ-centred life.

All we need to do is submit to the **Spirit**.

Does God really need our help?

Those who reject this are not God's people.

Romans 8:9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

The **Spirit** works within the scope of the cross.

Man's activity doesn't produce spiritual maturity.

The **Spirit's** way is by grace.

Flesh: the works of the **flesh**.

Sanctification is both instant and a process.

It's a position already granted in Christ.

It's a process or work of the **Spirit** daily.

Often we interfere by trying to do it ourselves.

Flesh - everything we produce naturally.

Flesh - is also the sin nature.

Flesh - religion, philosophy, ritual, morality.

None of these are recognised by God.

Only He can **perfect** the work in us.

Every true believer wants to be an overcomer.

It's only possible through the **Spirit**.

2 Timothy 1:12 For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

The Law has an important role to play.

Those who love God automatically obey the Law.

Romans 13:9-10 For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

The less we love God, the more rules we follow.

Religious people love themselves not God.

They fear not doing their supposed duties.

It's impossible to displease God ...

If we follow His **Spirit**.

1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

Study 38

Galatians 3:4-5 Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if it be yet in vain. He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

They were abused for turning from paganism.

Was it all meaningless, a mistake?

They had experienced great things.

God had worked **miracles** prior to the Judaizers.

Was the **Spirit** mistaken about their **faith**?

Vain: empty nothings - valueless.

Turning to the **Law** made **faith** valueless.

Yet in vain: gone to far to recover?

Their **faith** had been shaken by false teachers.

They needed to return to Christ.

The rewards for their suffering still awaited.
Would they see the foolishness of their ways?
Would they return to the foundation of **faith**?
God had made no error in saving them.

Spirit: the **Spirit** doesn't work with error.
He isn't mistaken about the message of the cross.

Miracles: manifestations of God's power.
Were there any at the hand of the Judaizers?
Wasn't their position sheer stupidity?

Miracles: *dunamis* - power of the **Spirit**.
He worked in them because they believed.
Not by works or self-effort.
Here is evidence that God was pleased with them.
What evidence did the Judaizers have?
They probably condemned the **miracles** too.

Ministereth: speaks of bountiful supply.

Works: of the **Law**.

Did the **miracles** come by obedience to the **Law**?

Was it by **faith** in Christ?

Did circumcision produce **miracles**?

Did dietary laws bring **miracles**?

Did the **Law** save and sanctify them?

It was all but **the hearing of faith**.

In other words - by **faith** alone.

Romans 10:17 **So then faith cometh by hearing,
and hearing by the word of God.**

Faith in the word.

The word (gospel) is all about Christ.

That's how it began.

That's how it should continue.

No works or law to be added to it.

2 Timothy 3:5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

Study 39

Galatians 3:6 Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.

Paul proves that Scripture is on his side.

Abraham is an example of salvation by faith.

Notice that they already knew about **Abraham**.

They knew about the Old Testament Scriptures.

Christianity, in part, is based on Abraham's life.

More than an appeal to an historical character.

He lived 400 years before Moses.

God made an everlasting covenant with him.

Termed the Father of Faith.

Genesis 15:6 And he believed in the Lord ; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

Righteousness: a right standing before **God**.

Impossible to be gained by works.

It is a right relationship with **God**.

God accepted **Abraham** because he trusted.

In this sense **righteousness** equals justification.

It wasn't Abraham's **righteousness**.

It was God's **righteousness** imputed to him.

A blood transfusion is a good example.

This is exactly how it works with us in Christ.

Justification is the legal declaration from **God**.

Accomplished through Christ on the Cross.

Believed: fully trusted, had faith in what **God** said.

Don't miss the word **even** here.

Proves that **righteousness** isn't by works.

Even shows we have to be justified the same way.

Judaizers should have known better.

They claimed **Abraham** as their father.

Moses came between them and **Abraham**.

What did **Abraham** believe?

God existed?

God promised him a son?

It had been to be something higher and deeper.

John 8:56 **Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it , and was glad.**

He **believed** what **God** said about the Messiah.

He **saw** something too.

- * The plan of salvation.
- * The Messiah would come through him.
- * The sacrifice on the cross.

He **saw** and **believed** = faith.

His faith was in Christ.

On this basis he was **accounted** righteous.

Study 40

Galatians 3:6 Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.

This is quoted in the following Scriptures:-

Romans 4:3,9, 21-22 For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. **9** Cometh this blessedness then upon the circumcision only, or upon the uncircumcision also? for we say that faith was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness. **21** And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.

James 2:23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

Accounted: a business term = place on account.

Abraham believed what **God** showed him.

God deposited **righteousness** to **Abraham**.

Also means faith was changed to **righteousness**.

This is the interest added to true faith.

No personal merit or work involved.

He didn't deserve anything from **God**.

If it were a reward, it would be works salvation.

Faith put him in the right position to receive.

Righteousness according to grace.

Faith was all that was required.

Righteousness: God's righteousness not ours.

God shares His **righteousness** with believers.

Right standing must be according to God's way.

The world sees **righteousness** as goodness.

The Greeks saw it as personal honour - merit.

This is the religious understanding of the word.

In Scripture **righteousness** is a state.

It is God's nature and character in us.

It's always according to His will.

Ephesians 4:24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

God is the standard of **righteousness**.

Anything below this standard is unacceptable.

It also implies guiltlessness.

Romans 8:1-2 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

The liberty to stand in God's presence.

2 Corinthians 3:9 For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory.

Righteousness before judgement.

Righteousness and justification work together.

Romans 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Justification is the result of **righteousness**.

He did the work and we get acquitted.

He took our guilt and judgement.

The Law can no longer condemn us.

This is why **Abraham** is the example.

No **righteousness** through works or merit.

Man cannot produce **righteousness**.

Man's heart is a polluted source.

God became man to bring **righteousness**.

The **righteousness** of **God**.

Faith in what Jesus did receives it.

The only **righteousness God** will ever accept.

Study 41

Galatians 3:7 Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.

If **Abraham** was accepted for his **faith**, so are we.
Again, this acceptance was prior to the Law.

Faith: spoken of here as the foundation.

Right standing with God is determined by **faith**.

Know: you need to understand this.

It is a reminder of what they were taught.

Salvation is by **faith** alone.

Children: ethnicity doesn't make us **children**.

This is on the basis of spirituality - **faith**.

John the Baptist said this too.

Luke 3:8 Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

Jesus rebuked to Jews for this also.

John 8:33-39 They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free? Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you. I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father. They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children,

ye would do the works of Abraham.

Abraham's descendants are spiritual not physical.

Children of Abraham not in a ethnical sense.

Jews are this according to the flesh alone.

Christians are this by **faith** alone.

We are accepted by the same **faith** as **Abraham**.

Jews think it is by circumcision and works.

Believers **know** it's through Christ Crucified.

Abraham is depicted as a man of **faith**.

Romans 4:3 **Abraham believed God.**

Not **believed** *in* **God**, but **believed God**.

Religion believes in **God**, that is, His existence.

But that is not what **faith** is.

Hebrews 11:6 **But without faith it is impossible to please him : for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of**

them that diligently seek him.

Believed God - **believed** what **God** said.

Abraham put his trust and confidence in **God**.

Many believe the story of Jesus.

They know about His life, death, resurrection.

This kind of knowledge cannot save.

Faith is believing that Jesus alone is sufficient.

This was the **faith** that **Abraham** had.

Romans 4:23-25 Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.

1 John 5:10-11 He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. And this is the record, that

**God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is
in his Son.**

Study 42

Galatians 3:8-9 And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed. So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.

Paul quotes **Genesis 12:3** and calls it the **gospel**.

And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Heathen and **All**: included the Gentiles too.

The word **before** indicates it preceded the Law.

The **Gospel** of Christ was revealed to **Abraham**.

God: He spoke directly to **Abraham**.

God ... **preached** ... **the gospel**.

He learned of the coming Messiah.

John 8:56 Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it , and was glad.

Remember that Moses **Genesis 12** too!

Scripture: how could **Scripture** foresee this?

Scripture here refers to the promise **God** made.

The Scriptures are the foundation of truth.

The promise was justification by faith alone.

The salvation of Gentiles is in **Scripture**.

Isaiah 49:6, 22-23 And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth. **22** Thus saith the Lord God , Behold, I will lift up mine hand to the Gentiles, and set up my standard to the people: and they shall bring thy sons in

their arms, and thy daughters shall be carried upon their shoulders. And kings shall be thy nursing fathers, and their queens thy nursing mothers: they shall bow down to thee with their face toward the earth, and lick up the dust of thy feet; and thou shalt know that I am the Lord for they shall not be ashamed that wait for me.

Therefore it was already in God's plan.

All nations cannot only refer to Jews.

Justify: Faith is the only condition for justification.

True **faith** is repentant, obedient and godly.

Circumcision could not produce justification.

God cannot accept any other way of salvation.

Blessed with faithful Abraham - salvation.

Notice **In Thee** - in **Abraham**, not Moses.

The blessing is by the same **faith Abraham** had.

With means *along with*.

This blessing can't come through works.

Faithful is added to indicate his lifestyle.

This faithfulness came after he believed.

He is **faithful** because he accepted the truth.

Of faith: the same **faith**.

We approach **God** in exactly the same way.

We simply trust Him and His word.

All Abraham's descendants are **blessed**.

The physical descendants will come to it.

Both Testaments state the same thing.

Faith is the way **God** accepts us.

Hebrews 11 bears out this fact.

Abraham was the pioneer of **faith**.

Study 43

Galatians 3:10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.

What happens when Christians adopt the **Law**?

No Justification because the **Law** can't be kept.

The **Law** itself makes this clear.

Those who don't fully keep it are **cursed**.

Those who don't continue in it are **cursed**.

Faith and **Works** cannot be mixed.

Curse: because the **Law** demands perfection.

Deuteronomy 27:26 Cursed be he that confirmeth not all the words of this law to do them. And all the people shall say, Amen.

It isn't pick-n-mix, take it or leave it.

Break one command and the whole is violated.

James 2:10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point , he is guilty of all.

Theoretically a person could keep all the **Law**.

But practically no one, but Christ, has.

The slightest failure brings the **curse**.

Sin therefore is universal.

This **curse** is the judgement upon sin.

The **curse** is part of God's wrath on sinners.

So the **Law** cannot save but condemn.

Reveals the desperate need of the Saviour.

Works: people think these make them righteous.

Instead **works** make matters worse.

Trying to establish personal righteousness.

Romans 10:1-4 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

Justification by **works** alienates man from God.

Doomed to failure from the start.

Law: can Christians ignore the **Law**?

We are free from the ceremonial / feast Laws.

The moral **Law** still applies.

Yet we know we are not made right by it.

Victory over sin isn't gained by effort.

Effort is the response of pride / self-righteousness.

Effort rejects unmerited grace.

Sin existed before the **Law** of Moses.

Romans 4:15 Because the law worketh wrath:
for where no law is, there is no transgression.

Not a violation of the **Law**, but still sin.

The **Law** simply itemised what sin is.

Sin literally means *missing the mark*.

To miss the mark makes a person a loser.

Everyone: every single person is under the **curse**.

Ever wondered why sin is called *trespass*?

Trespassing on forbidden ground - evil.

The **Law** is God's "*Keep Out*" sign.

The **Law** tells us not to enter.

But it can't take away our desire to do so.

Only Christ can do that.

Romans 8:3-4 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Salvation and sanctification are totally in Him.

The **curse** results from a violation of the **Law**.

It also banishes man from God's presence.

Jesus made us friends of God.

Paul isn't attacking but upholding the **Law**.

He's attacking a faulty understanding of it.

Study 44

Galatians 3:11 But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.

The **Law** condemns the sinner.

It points the sinner to the correct way of salvation.

Paul quotes from the prophet Habakkuk.

Habakkuk 2:4 But the just shall live by his faith.

Justified: the **Law** cannot justify us.

The **Law** is perfect but we can't perfectly keep it.

The sacrifices only covered sin.

All the sacrifices and feasts pointed to Jesus.

The **Law** accounts **man** guilty.

Justification frees us from that condemnation.

Sight: obeying the **Law** seems good.

Through it we justify ourselves.

This is what religion is all about.

It's what **God** see and thinks that matters.

2 Corinthians 5:7 **For we walk by faith, not by sight.**

Evident: this is clearly stated in Scripture.

But few are willing to believe it.

Rather accept a religious approach to **God**.

Religious justification seems meritorious.

Faith: true Biblical belief.

Romans 1:17 **For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.**

This **faith** is full confidence in **God**.

Shall live: made blessed / made happy.

This **faith** is for eternal life and is daily lived.

Only promised in Christ.

Just: a legal term meaning *accepted / approved*.

Those **justified** by **God** must **live by faith**.

1 Corinthians 6:11 **And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.**

Faith in what Jesus did on Calvary.

His blood cleanses us from all unrighteousness.

Therefore we are pronounced **justified**.

It can't be done - only received.

What about what James said?

James 2:14-26 **What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not**

works? can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way? For as the body without the

spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

James is speaking of a life after salvation.

The context proves this.

Justification produces a changed in life.

Faith is never dormant or sterile.

Paul = **faith** to be saved - not works.

James = **faith** because we are saved - works.

Dead **faith** is of no use to **God** or **man**.

Study 45

Galatians 3:12 And the law is not of faith: but,
The man that doeth them shall live in them.

Can **faith** and the **Law** be mixed?

Not according to Paul.

Leviticus 18:5 Ye shall therefore keep my
statutes, and my judgments: which if a man do,
he shall live in them: I am the Lord.

The **Law** must be continuously observed.

Faith: **Law** and **Faith** are diametrically opposed.

The **Law** doesn't inspire **faith** but duty.

Duty is simple man's power or ability to do.

It is performance to gain justification.

It is impossible to fully obey the **Law**.

Faith is in what Jesus did on the Cross.

The Holy Spirit enables us to walk in holiness.

Victory over sin isn't through ability or willpower.

It is through Christ's finished work on Calvary.

He is the only one who perfectly kept the **Law**.

By His merit alone we receive salvation.

Law-keeping is a rejection of His sacrifice.

Says it isn't enough to save and sanctify.

No mixture of **faith** and **Law** is possible.

The **Law** crushes all who come under it.

It's job is to totally humiliate **man**.

Whatever we do is never enough.

Man tries to solve the sin problem himself.

Religion, politics, morals, psychology, hyper-grace.

Religion just adds more rules to the burden ...

Fast, pray more, tithe, study more etc.

Nothing good results from rule-keeping.

An eighth step will follow the seven steps to ...

Why? It is not of **faith**.

Jesus made it very simple.

Luke 9:23 If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

This is the answer to every sin.

Trust in what Jesus did and can do.

Then the Holy Spirit will work in us.

Romans 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

The choice is ours: **Faith** or **Law**? - not both!

Everything must be centred on Christ.

Other ways seek to rob Him of glory.

John 10:1 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a

thief and a robber.

Robbers are under the curse.

Study 46

Galatians 3:13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree.

Relying on the **Law** brings a **curse**.

Therefore it is hopeless to do so.

Deliverance must come from another source.

Jesus **redeemed** us from the **curse**.

Us: this must refer to both Jews and Gentiles.

Both are in need of redemption / deliverance.

Redeemed: means to buy out of slavery.

How did **Christ** buy us?

Deuteronomy 21:23 His body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou shalt in any

wise bury him that day; (for he that is hanged is accursed of God;) that thy land be not defiled, which the Lord thy God giveth thee for an inheritance.

He took the **curse of the law** in our place.

He took the wrath we ought to have received.

Matthew 27:46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

His substitutionary death is illustrated in Leviticus.

Leviticus 16:5 And he shall take of the congregation of the children of Israel two kids of the goats for a sin offering, and one ram for a burnt offering.

Redeemed from bondage to the **Law**.

Slavish obedience is never an act of love.

Here are three Greek words for **redeemed**:

* **Agorazo**

1 Corinthians 6:20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

It refers to the ransom price.

1 Peter 1:18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers.

Jesus bought us for Himself - bondservants.

* **Exagrazo.**

To buy in a marketplace.

The slave could never be resold.

Satan owned us, but Jesus paid the price for us.
Never to be slaves to sin again.

* **Lutroo**

The actual money for the ransom.

Where we get our word '*loot*'.

The blood money was sufficient to save.

Here are three Hebrew words for **redeemed**:

* **Padah**

The transfer of ownership.

Deuteronomy 15:15 And thou shalt remember that thou wast a bondman in the land of Egypt, and the Lord thy God redeemed thee: therefore I command thee this thing to day.

Used in the Psalms as redemption from sin.

* **Gal'al**

Kinsman Redeemer - Story of Ruth.

Everything owned is transferred to new owner.

The emphasis is on *relationship* not slavery.

Poor Israelite **redeemed** by wealthy relative.

An act of love and mercy.

* **Koper**

To make a substitutionary payment.

Exodus 30:14-16 Every one that passeth among them that are numbered, from twenty years old and above, shall give an offering unto the Lord. The rich shall not give more, and the poor shall not give less than half a shekel, when they give an offering unto the Lord, to make an atonement for your souls. And thou shalt take the atonement money of the children of Israel, and shalt appoint it for the service of the tabernacle of the congregation; that it may be a memorial unto the children of Israel before the Lord, to make an atonement for your souls.

Koper isn't used in a spiritual way.

The shadow of the meaning is there though.

Study 47

Galatians 3:13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree.

Redemption in the OT means *deliverance*.

Deliverance from slavery and danger.

Refers to delivering human lives.

Deliverance from Egypt is the example.

All Israel needed was faith in the promise.

They were helpless without God.

He stepped into their needs to help them.

NT uses OT typography to explain redemption.

Jesus' blood is the redemption price.

Matthew 20:28 Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

1 Peter 1:18-19 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

Redemption is release from wickedness.

Hebrews 9:12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

We are cleansed from sin to serve God.

We were locked into an empty life.

Now we have abundant life.

All was required was faith in the promise.

Curse: Jesus was **made a curse for us**.

He wasn't a **curse** for Himself - He is sinless.

No **crime** or sin could be levelled against Him.

The perfect sin offering accepted by God.

Jesus never regretted He said or did.

He never went to the burning side of Hell!

We were under the **curse**.

Galatians 3:10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.

But Jesus took our **curse** on Himself.

This happened on the Cross.

Now instead of a **curse** we have His grace.

John 1:17 For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

Those who try to save themselves have no hope.

Hope is only found in Jesus.

Galatians 4:4-5 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

Study 48

Galatians 3:14 That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

This would have sounded strange to the Jews.

Abraham was only their father they thought.

Blessing: this **blessing** was for all.

Joel 2:28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions.

The cross places Jew and **Gentile** on same level.

The same Holy **Spirit** is given to both.

The Law shut both out.

The Blood opened the door to all.

How? By **faith**.

This is part of the **blessing of Abraham**.

Genesis 12:3 In thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Justification - Righteousness - Holy **Spirit**.

Abraham is the father of all who believe in **Christ**.

Some teach this **blessing** is health and wealth.

As such they twist the text.

Christ: through **Christ** rather than Moses.

Moses showed the way out of slavery (sin).

Joshua (**Jesus**) brought them to the **Promise**.

How **faith** must be in **Christ** and His sacrifice.

Promise: the **promise** is the **Spirit**.

John 14:17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

Acts 1:4-5 And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

The abiding **Spirit** couldn't be sent before Calvary.

Passover always precedes Pentecost.

The Law gave no such **promise**.

The promise is also God's guarantee to us.

Ephesians 1:13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye

believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise.

If the cross isn't the way, the **Spirit** isn't given.

Luke 24:49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

John 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

It is the **Spirit** that confirms that the cross is true.

Our **faith** is in His leadership and guidance.

Faith: Paul keeps stating this.

Faith is the key to living a cross-centred life.

It's a lack of **faith** that's the problem today.

Self-effort, works, religion are not **faith**.

Faith believes God's word.

Faith accepts God's work.

Romans 8:26-27 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

Romans 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Study 49

Galatians 3:15-18 Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; Though it be but a man's covenant, yet if it be confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto. Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ. And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect. For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise.

The word **brethren** changes the tone.

He reprimanded them, now he draws them close.

Man's Covenant: agreement / contract / will.

Speaking of the Abrahamic **Covenant**.

Hebrews 6:13-15 For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself, Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee. And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.

The **covenant** provided the **promise**.

Designed to secure the **inheritance**.

It cannot be:-

* Disannulled = not a word can be removed.

* Added to = not a word can be added to it.

Promises: very specifically says **promises**.

Not fulfilled by Moses but **Christ**.

Promises of grace, justification, salvation etc.

Seed: **seed** singular = offspring - specific person.

The blessings had to come through **Christ**.

Galatians 3:29 And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

The **seed** has to be **Christ**.

The **promises** were fulfilled at Calvary.

430 years before the **Law** was given to Moses.

Therefore grace reigned during this period.

So how can the **Law** disannul the **promise**?

Notice the Abrahamic **Covenant** was **in Christ**.

It was, is, and always will be, about Jesus.

In Christ literally mean *into Christ*.

If it's **in Christ** it cannot be disannulled.

The **Law** pointed to the Cross.

The **Law** cannot go beyond the Cross.

The **Law** couldn't offer the **promise** of salvation.

The **promise** of salvation is **in Christ** alone.

God gave it: indicates a free, unmerited gift.

If it's by works then it's **no more of promise**.

If the **Law** can save, then the **promise** is a lie.

Again, you can't mix **Law** and grace.

Religion, ritualism, works reject the Cross.

Gave (*charizoma*) same root as grace (*charisma*).

It is the *charity* (love) of **1 Corinthians 13**.

You cannot pay for salvation or sanctification.

The **Promise** is given as an act of love.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Study 50

Galatians 3:19 Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.

The **promise** is received by faith.

The curse comes through the **Law**.

The sole purpose of the **Law** was to convict.

Serveth: the purpose - what it ministers.

To make sinners realise they need the Saviour.

To make man conscious of his sinful nature.

That's why the Bible is the most hated book.

The **Law** was only a temporary solution for sin.

Transgressions: description of what sin is.

The **Law** declares the penalty for violating it.

It is a straight rule - the measuring stick.

It measures how far we have strayed from God

It measures out the just punishment.

It's final verdict is the death penalty.

It points to the need of the cross.

Transgressions - to step beyond the mark.

Sin means to miss the mark.

Added: the **Law** was a supplement.

It is subordinate to grace.

Added to what? The **Promise** given to Abraham.

Romans 5:20 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.

Added and **entered** have the same meaning.

Came alongside like a measuring stick.

Till: until - the **Law** was a temporary fix.

Man used grace to find supposed loopholes.

These loopholes are the **transgressions**.

The **Law** put a stop to such foolishness.

Till when? Until the **seed** arrived.

Can only be referring to Christ.

The **seed** wasn't Isaac - he came before the **Law**.

It wasn't be Moses - he ministered the **Law**.

John 1:17 For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

The **Law** ruled until Christ died on the Cross.

Colossians 2:14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross.

The cross restores the grace covenant.

People still put themselves under the temporary.

Colossians 2:16-23 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ. Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God. Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances, (Touch not; taste not; handle not; Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men? Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh.

Study 51

Galatians 3:19-20 Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator. Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, but God is one.

The **mediator** of the **Law** was Moses.

This was given through **angels**.

Acts 7:53 Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it.

Grace was given through Jesus.

Hebrews 2:2 For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward.

The **Law** is therefore inferior to grace.

Moses and **Angels** were mediators / dispensers.

God had no go-between with Abraham.

Jesus (**God**) Himself is our **Mediator**.

1 Timothy 2:5-6 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

Moses hid behind a veil - Jesus didn't.

2 Corinthians 3:12-18 Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech: And not as Moses, which put a vail over his face, that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look to the end of that which is abolished: But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ. But even unto this

day, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart. Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away. Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Usually a **mediator** mediates between two people.

Abraham received the **promise** directly.

Israel received the **Law** secondhand.

God doesn't use intermediates with salvation.

God (Trinity) acted alone in Creation.

God acted alone in the New Creation.

Faith is the hand that receives this.

Did we do anything to be born?

Did we do anything to be born again?

The New Birth is an act of God's grace.

Mediator also implies a contract.

There must be conditions.

* If the **Law** isn't kept - blessings forfeited.

* If there's no faith - promises forfeited.

God is one: the **one mediator** of the covenant.

The **Law** failed through human weakness.

The New Covenant cannot fail.

Jesus, as **God** and Man, fulfilled the **Law**.

He represented **God**.

He represented man.

Whose mediatorship guarantees salvation?

Moses or Jesus?

The contract was made at the Last Supper.

Luke 22:19-20 And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it , and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.

It was sealed at the cross.

Luke 24:44-46 And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day.

John 19:30 It is finished.

Study 52

Galatians 3:21-22 Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law. But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.

The **Law** could not **promise** grace.

If you have to work for salvation it isn't a gift.

Anyone fully obeying the **Law** wouldn't be a sinner.

Paul reveals the impossibility of that thought.

Law: the **Law** isn't in conflict with the **Promise**.

Each functions in a different way.

The **Law** teaches that man has a sinful nature.

The **Promise** ministers salvation in **Christ**.

The **Law** judges man for his disobedience.

The **Promise** judges man on the basis of his **faith**.

No man is justified by obedience to the **Law**.

God forbid: used as a sign of annoyance.

He resents the notion of justification by the **Law**.

He presents the sphere the **Law** operates in.

Righteousness: no **righteousness** by the **Law**.

If it could, why did Jesus die on the cross?

Do we always obey the 30mph speed limit?

Obedying it doesn't make us good drivers though!

The sign warns us to obey or be punished.

The law is a restraint on our desire to go faster.

The **Law** of Moses states the boundaries.

It cannot make anyone good or righteous.

In **Christ** we are obeying the **Law**.

The **Law** places everyone *in* sin.

Faith places us in **Christ** and **Righteousness**.

Under sin: we are all **under** something.

Under the Law?

Under the Blood?

Those **under** the **Law** are condemned.

Romans 3:19 Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

Galatians 3:10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.

Those **under** the Blood are **under** grace.

Romans 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

The **Law** is the jailer locking everyone up.

Jesus is the **Promise** that sets believers free.

Concluded: means *locked up - shut away*.

The lost are locked up in **sin**.

They can never be righteous by themselves.

The **Law** cannot set the guilty free.

Faith: the **Promise by Faith** is **of Christ**.

Reference back to the Abrahamic Covenant.

The **Law** puts everyone on the same level.

Grace puts those who **believe** on the same level.

All that is required is **faith** in **Christ**.

We must **believe** in His finished work on the cross.

Study 53

Galatians 3:23-24 But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

The **faith** here refers to **faith** in the cross.

It is **faith** in **Christ** as Saviour.

1 Timothy 4:1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.

It's this **faith** that Christians are departing from.

This is the **faith** Abraham had.

This **faith** also includes Christian doctrine.

Before faith came: Faith in Christ.

Something came between Abraham and **Christ**.

The **Law** is the **before** here.

The word shows that something else must come.

What came after the **Law** but grace?

Kept under: held down, restricted.

The **Law kept** everyone in custody.

No escape from its control.

All were held as convicted criminals / condemned.

No one could free others from the **Law**.

The **Law** could not show mercy.

The faith: points directly and only to **Christ**.

The **Law** ruled **unto** (*until*) Jesus came.

Some knew the Messiah was coming.

Their **faith** was in this promise.

But until He came they were not *in* **the faith**.

The Law dominated for 1,500 years.

Every sacrifice, feast, ritual symbolised **Christ**.

Every **Law** pointed to man's sinfulness.

Faith had to be in the blood sacrifices.

Schoolmaster: child custodian, tutor.

Pedagogue (Gk) - slave who looked after children.

A child-minder who taught basic education.

Christ: the **Law** can only **bring** people to Christ.

It was a temporary arrangement until ...

It **kept** man from total destruction.

Jesus brought to an end the Law's dominion.

Romans 10:4 **For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.**

Before man was only a minor needing supervision.

Christ alone brings believers to maturity.

Study 54

Galatians 3:24-26 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

The **Law** had no authority to justify anyone.

It was preparing man for the coming of **Christ**.

Justified by faith rather than works.

This **faith** is both believing and following.

Luke 9:23-26 And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it. For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away? For whosoever

shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels.

We love **John 3:16** but what about ...?

John 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

The first **believeth** (**pisteuōn**) refers to **faith**.

The second **believeth** (**apeithōn**) is obedience.

Obedient **faith** is different from **Law** keeping.

Here is how the ASV renders the verse:-

John 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath eternal life; but he that obeyeth not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him.

Faith: we are in this **faith** now.

Faith is from the heart, **Law** is duty.

After: we are **no longer** in the **before** :23.

The dispensation of the **Law** is over.

It is **no longer** our guardian.

We are now the **children of God**.

We are working in our Father's business.

This is our relationship with and to **God**.

Law: **no longer under** it.

This speaks of maturity in **Christ**.

We are **no longer** supervised, we're serving.

No longer infants, but adult.

Those **under** the **Law** are spiritually immature.

Those in **faith** are recipients of grace.

Ye: refers to both Jews and Gentiles.

No difference - both must be **in Christ**.

Same **faith** for **all**.

Children: *Huies* (Gk) = full aged, mature.

The Judaizers thought they knew everything.

The immature child thinks he knows everything.

The deluded think they know everything.

The mature know they do not.

We used to be alienated from **God**.

Now we are His own **children**.

Now we are joint-heirs with **Christ**.

Because we are **in Christ** not **under** the **Law**.

Study 55

Galatians 3:27-29 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

No one is automatically the children of God.

We only belong to God by faith in **Christ**.

Baptised into: this baptism isn't water baptism.

It is immersion into **Christ** Himself.

Romans 6:3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

This baptism happens when faith is in **Christ**.

The Holy Spirit then places us **in Christ**.

1 Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

Refers to being united with **Christ**.

Notice **baptised into Christ** not water.

Water baptism follows conversion.

Put on Christ: clothed in / united with.

John 14:20 At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.

This spiritual baptism puts on **Christ**.

All races need this to be saved.

Without this baptism they are lost.

In **Christ** all barriers are broken down.

Ephesians 2:11-18 Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

No one is considered outside of grace.

There are no inferiors of those who are saved.

All one: refers to unity - no special ones.

We are all saved by the same blood.

True unity is amongst those who:

- * are **in Christ**.

- * have **put on Christ**.

Seed: descendants according to faith.

This spiritual family tree is in **Abraham**.

Notice it isn't Adam but **Abraham**.

It isn't Moses but **Abraham**.

In this family through **Christ** alone.

Not birth, religion, circumcision or laws.

Salvation is dependant on faith rather than law.

Abraham's seed is **Christ**.

That's why we must be **in Christ**.

Promise: **heirs** by sharing **Christ's** glories.

The blessings are ours **in** Him.

Heirs not infants under a guardian.

Every true believer inherits the **promise**.

The **promise** is **Christ** and salvation He brings.

We are citizens of His Kingdom.

Study 56

Galatians 4:1 Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all.

Contrasts Old and New Covenant believers.

No longer slaves but sons.

Paul is using Bar-mitzvah terminology.

Jews became adults at 12 years of age.

Greeks became adults at 18 years of age.

Romans became adults at father's discretion.

All kept their children under guardians until then.

It's all to do with social status - slave / son.

Same legal standing as servants.

Both had to be obedient to the head of the house.

Child: children were considered inferiors.

Child in Greek means '*one who doesn't speak*'.

Too immature to have an opinion.

Too immature to look after himself.

Adults are meant to govern their own lives.

The Galatians had become slaves to the Law.

Entered a state of legal immaturity.

Placing themselves in a spiritual nursery.

Why? Were they not already sons of God?

Galatians 3:3 Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?

The Law of Calvary brought them to maturity.

Romans 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

* Law of Moses = do's and don't's.

* Law of Christ = done.

* Law of faith = nothing to do but believe.

Romans 3:27 Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith.

Servant: child no different to a **servant**.

Everything he did was governed by a slave.

Lord of all but owned nothing yet!

No rights or position of importance.

Nothing until he came to maturity.

Those who follow Jewish customs have **nothing**.

Lord means he was to be the master / owner.

Jews claimed they were the real children of God.

But in fact they were slaves until Jesus came.

The promise belonged to them in Christ.

Progressive Revelation

* Adam and Eve in Eden - conscience.

- * Noah - government.
- * Abraham - the promise of grace.
- * Moses - obedience to the Law.
- * Jesus - grace and truth.

Sadly Judaism stopped at Moses.

The Galatians were going backwards.

Study 57

Galatians 4:2-4 But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father. Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world: But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law.

Paul explains the tutor terminology.

Tutors - Guardians.

Governors - Supervisors.

Tutors were guardians of the child's person.

Governors were guardians of his property.

Time appointed: a fixed date for inheritance.

Father fixed date for his son to become a man.

Until then he was kept **under** like a servant.

Otherwise, like the prodigal, he could waste all.

Even so we: both Jews and Gentiles.

Children refers to all mankind.

No one reaches maturity without Christ.

Elements: passions and pride that enslave us.

Jew had the **Law**, but were still slaves to sin.

Gentiles had laws, but still slaves to sin.

Romans 7:14 For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.

So **elements** are whatever draws us into sin.

Lusts of the sin nature.

Also refers to observance of days and months.

Bondage to religious observances.

The only hope for humanity is Christ.

Only God's **Son** could free us.

Fulness of the time: = **time appointed**.

God decided the **time** between Moses and Jesus.

The era of the **Law** started to die at His birth.

The era expired at the cross.

Jesus couldn't come sooner or later.

Son: refers only to Jesus Christ.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Sent forth reveals that He existed before His birth.

Daniel worked it out by the prophecies.

The religious leaders wouldn't believe them.

Made of a woman: virgin birth.

Woman - fulfilment of the first promise.

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

Made under the law: subject to Moses' **Law**.

A must if He was to save us from it.

A Man fully fulfilled the Law's requirements.

Jesus' life and ministry were **under** the **Law**.

He represented **God** and man.

1 Corinthians 15:45-49 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of

the heavenly.

This Perfect Man took our sins to the cross.
That's what the gospel is all about!

Study 58

Galatians 4:5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

Jesus was sent (came) to **redeem** sinners.

Colossians 1:14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins.

Jesus is the only bloodline Son.

We, through His blood, are adopted.

Redemption brings **adoption**.

Redeem: bought out of slavery.

Galatians 3:13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law.

4:3 tells us what we were redeemed from.

Christ paid the full price for our redemption.

We were slaves, now we are God's children.

Romans 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

Under the Law refers to the Jews in particular.

They didn't think of themselves as slaves.

John 8:33 They answered [Jesus], We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?

They and the Gentiles were slaves to laws.

Redemption from religious rites and regulations.

Jesus' death put an end to spiritual slavery.

The **Law** doesn't operate in Heaven.

Ephesians 2:5-6 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

Adoption of sons: received position as **sons**.

Returning to the **Law** voided this blessing.

All we need is in Christ.

Resorting to anything else is same as rejection.

Have we become God's children?

By what other means except faith.

Adoption means sonship - rights of a son.

Adoption has always been a legal contract.

Gentiles and Jews are equals on all accounts.

John 10:15-16 As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. And other sheep I have, which are

not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.

Adoption means a change of family ties.

No allegiance to old masters.

Galatians 3:26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

Our full allegiance is with God.

Willingness to be guided by Him.

Through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 4:30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

Study 59

Galatians 4:6-7 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Mark 14:36 And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt.

Romans 8:15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

Sons: rather than slaves.

Notice the Trinitarian aspect of the above verses.

We are now the children of God by faith in **Christ**.

The Holy **Spirit** is given to confirm this.

Because ye are sons - because you are already.

John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.

Spirit of His Son: the Holy **Spirit**.

Jesus is our permanent Saviour.

The **Spirit** takes up permanent residence.

The Law no longer guides - the **Spirit** does.

He speaks of Jesus not the Law.

Though God is still Judge, He is now our **Father**.

Sent forth means Calvary had to happen first.

2 Corinthians 1:22 Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.

Abba, Father: Hebrew and Greek words.

Both Jews and Gentiles have the same **Father**.

A **servant** couldn't call his master **father**.

Only a true child has this privilege.

Abba is an affectionate title.

This emphasises the outcome of previous verses.

No more a servant: positional change.

The servant's status is changed forever.

Thou rather than ye personalises the fact.

No more means *no longer* under the Law.

But a son: no longer alienated from **God**.

We should no longer see ourselves as slaves.

We have been adopted into God's family.

Heir of God: but only **through Christ**.

Christ's privileges have been shared with us.

This is through our relationship with Him.

It includes the power to overcome sin.

Romans 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

The blessings and promises are ours.

Our place is guaranteed in His Kingdom.

2 Corinthians 1:20 For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.

All **through Christ** alone.

Study 60

Galatians 4:8-9 Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods. But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?

Galatians were previously steeped in paganism.

Same slavish rules applied as with Judaism.

Returning to religion is a return slavery.

When ye knew not God: former heathenism.

No knowledge of the true **God**.

They were lost then, they could be again.

No one can obey **God** with religion.

Only Jesus did, hence our faith in Him.

Gods: all religions worship false **gods**.

Corrupting the truth is no different.

It is inspired by demons.

1 Corinthians 8:5-6 For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,) But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.

1 Corinthians 10:20 But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils.

Did service unto: were slaves of.

By nature: pretending to be gods.

Allah, Krishna, Buddha are demons.

Adopting Judaism is coming under slavery.

Why would any believer want to be in **bondage**?

Yet the Israelites wanted to go back to Egypt.

Known God: personal relationship with Him.

They had accepted Jesus Christ as Saviour.

All who work for salvation do not know **God**.

The Law didn't offer perfect knowledge of **God**.

Only possible through Christ.

Anything else is a state of ignorance.

Or rather known of God: He instigated it.

Does **God** know us as His own?

He made Himself **known** to man in Christ.

He has permitted us to **know** Him.

The grounds of this relationship is the cross.

Beggarly elements: weak and useless practices.

Observing days, months, seasons **:10**.

Turning to them is worse than stupid.

Weak and beggarly refers to all forms of religion.

Only Christ is the answer.

Bondage: slavery - the result of law-keeping.

Again: they were not Jews in the first place.

To practice Jewish customs is bondage.

This **bondage** will lead to sin again.

Jesus came to set us free.

Study 61

Galatians 4:10-11 **Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain.**

The drift towards legalism.

Jewish customs and feasts were fascinating them.

Days refer to Sabbaths and Feasts.

Months considered to be holy.

Times mean seasons / feasts over several days.

Years speak of jubilees.

Paul didn't oppose Jewish feasts as such.

But the Jewish calendar shouldn't regulate us.

No different to what paganism did.

Ye observe: practiced and participated in.

They were convinced of the importance of them.

Then they would see the need of circumcision.

Observe means to carry out precise instructions.

Jewish rituals are complicated and intricate.

That's how the religion of works operates.

Meticulous attention to rituals, but Bible ignored.

The feasts were only a shadow, symbolic of Christ.

Calendar observance is idolatry.

I am afraid of you: I fear for you.

Afraid because they were being led astray.

Afraid because they were casting off the truth.

Afraid because of their final defeat.

2 Corinthians 11:3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

They had been properly grounded in the Gospel.

Labour in vain: Paul worked hard for them.

Time, effort, prayer, teaching and sacrifice.

Why did he bother if this is what they are doing?

Their faith was now in Jewish rituals.

The cross was being replaced with circumcision.

Their faith was misplace and Satan didn't mind!

Judaizers never brought anyone to Christ.

They stole converts through deceit.

They had another gospel to offer.

2 Corinthians 11:4 For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.

Many are deceived in the same way today.

Study 62

Galatians 4:12-15 Brethren, I beseech you, be as I am ; for I am as ye are: ye have not injured me at all. Ye know how through infirmity of the flesh I preached the gospel unto you at the first. And my temptation which was in my flesh ye despised not, nor rejected; but received me as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus. Where is then the blessedness ye spake of? for I bear you record, that, if it had been possible, ye would have plucked out your own eyes, and have given them to me.

Paul reflects on his relationship with them.

Brethren: still encourages them as **brethren**.

Be as I am means 'put yourself in my place'.

Paul is free from the controls of the Law.

They needed to see from his position.

The Law failed this Pharisee.

This is what **Romans 7** is all about.

For I am as Ye are: no claim of superiority.

He had to live by the same truths.

Reject the cross and failure is certain.

His only confidence was in **Christ**.

Ye have not injured me at all: that is, *rejected*.

He wasn't angry because they had rejected him.

His anger was due to their forsaking **Christ**.

Infirmity: he taught them through illness.

Infirmity refers to disease, sickness, weakness.

His physical problem didn't hinder his preaching.

Not speaking of long term disability as some say.

Preached the gospel: the message of Calvary.

At the first: he was the **first** to do so.

They received what he taught as God's Word.

Temptation: trial due to the illness.

They didn't keep him at arm's length.

Received me: they honoured him like a **angel**.

Angel or messenger **of God**.

The message was **received** with joy.

Now their attitude had turned hostile.

Where is the blessedness?: The joy had gone?

They had become sour and ungracious.

I bear you record: regards to their previous state.

Some see the illness as an eye disease.

But the mention of **eyes** is idiomatic.

Similar to, 'lay down your lives for me'.

Or 'cut off your right arm'.

He is speaking of their intense love for him.

Study 63

Galatians 4:16 Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth? They zealously affect you, but not well; yea, they would exclude you, that ye might affect them.

They were treating Paul like an enemy.

In their eyes he was now a false teacher.

His teaching offended them.

This is a common situation today too.

Enemy: openly and actively hostile to him.

Once **truth** is rejected this is what happens.

Reason why some preachers degrade the **truth**.

Paul taught the about grace.

The Judaizers taught them hate.

Truth: religion hates the **truth**.

Truth rather dogmas and creeds of men.

Truth is what the Bible plainly teaches.

Jesus is the **Truth** ...

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

The Bible is **Truth** ...

John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

A rejection of **truth** is a rejection of Christ.

It's impossible to be saved without it.

1 John 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with

another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

It's the Bible's **truth** that matters most.

The foundation of all we believe, do and say.

They zealously affect you: zealous with deceit.

Their zeal was built upon envy.

Zealously affect means to subvert their faith.

They were **zealously** teaching error.

They wooed the Galatians into bondage.

They flattered them for their wisdom.

Romans 16:17-18 Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive

the hearts of the simple.

But not well: had evil intentions.

Their intention was to **exclude** them.

Remove them from the blessings in Christ.

To shut them off from grace.

They wanted to control the church.

2 Corinthians 11:13-14 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

This false teaching did **affect** the believers.

The Judaizers had a bad effect on them.

They were praising their new teachers.

They were financially supporting them.

The Judaizers were wonderful preachers to them.

2 Peter 2:1-3 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

Study 64

Galatians 4:18-20 But it is good to be zealously affected always in a good thing , and not only when I am present with you. My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you, I desire to be present with you now, and to change my voice; for I stand in doubt of you.

Good to be zealously affected: by the truth.

True preachers want others to benefit from truth.

The five-fold ministry is for our good.

Ephesians 4:11-13 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of

the fulness of Christ.

We can only be blessed by God-sent men.

Honoured him if he was **present** or not.

Zeal should be same if near or far.

True friends are always true friends.

My little children: term of affection.

Paul reveals his love for the church.

1 Corinthians 4:15 For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

My speaks of them as being his own.

He was distraught over the error in the church.

Travail in birth again: shows his compassion.

Wants to get them back on the right path.

He wants to nurture and protect them.

Heartbroken at the spiritual condition.

Until Christ be formed in you: speaks of rebirth.

Only the Holy Spirit can do this.

They were no longer following His voice.

They needed to get back to the cross.

Desire to be present: yearning of a parent.

Change my voice: not his words.

They would hear his love in his **voice**.

I stand in doubt of you: perplexed.

Mystified by their departure from Christ.

He had taught them correctly.

The modern church must perplex the Lord.

Why does it choose the unBiblical way?

No excuse for waywardness.

Turning to the Law is spiritual adultery.

Study 65

Galatians 4:21-23 Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear the law? For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman. But he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman was by promise.

Why do some **desire to be under the Law**?

The Gentiles had become fascinated with it.

This was daft because it was for the Jews.

Do ye not hear the law?:Do you understand it?

They were buying into something they didn't.

It sounded wonderful, but it wasn't.

They just heard the spin of the Judaizers.

For it is written: Paul appeals to the facts.

Gives a brief sketch of **Genesis 16 and 21**.

Abraham had two sons: Ishmael and Isaac.

The Judaizers thought they were Abraham's sons.

Matthew 3:9 And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

One by a bondwoman: Hagar the servant.

Hagar was an Egyptian servant.

Maybe Hagar was behind the plan to kill Isaac.

She was bound to Abraham for life.

Abraham legally set her free.

The other by a freewoman: Sarah the wife.

Sarah was always free.

This is a story containing spiritual truth.

Born after the flesh: conniving and doubt.

Ishmael was the result of Abraham's doubt.

Abraham and Sarah initially doubted the **promise**.

There was no **promise** about Ishmael's birth.

The consequences of trying to help God out!

By promise: the promise was Isaac.

Isaac was second **born**, but truly Abraham's first.

Ishmael, though a son, was a slave.

Isaac never took Ishmael's part - slavery.

Ishmael never took Isaac's part - sonship.

The Galatians were taking the slave part.

But sonship is always by faith in Christ.

Not man's conniving doubt but by grace.

Study 66

Galatians 4:24-25 Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar. For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children. But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.

Sarah and **Hagar** illustrate a spiritual truth.

Comparing Judaism and Christianity.

An **allegory** is a word painting based on facts.

Not a parable, story or tale.

A way to visualise details (Pilgrim's Progress).

Two covenants: Law and Grace.

These are is not in a literal sense.

Represent **two covenants** in an allegorical sense.

See how the bread is meant symbolically.

Matthew 26:26 Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body.

Paul is linking **Hagar** with **Sinai** and **Jerusalem**.

Linking Sarah with the Heavenly **Jerusalem**.

The implication is Judaism to bound to the Law.

The Law was given on **Sinai** in **Arabia**.

Why wasn't it given on Mount Zion in Israel?

Answereth to Jerusalem: Jerusalem in Israel.

Jerusalem became a city of **bondage** not peace.

Even today it exists to serve the Law.

In bondage with her children:

It is bound head to toe with religion ...

Judaism, Islam and religious Christianity.

2,000 years ago it rejected the Messiah.

Hagar and Ishmael were slaves.

Followers of Judaism are slaves.

Those who follow the Law are not **free**.

Jerusalem which is above: New **Jerusalem**.

The Heavenly **Jerusalem** - the City of Grace.

The City of the New **Covenant**.

Free from religion, rites, and rituals.

We are citizens of this **Jerusalem**.

It is the **mother of us all**.

Philippians 3:20 **For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.**

We must be born again / born from above.

Our birth is superior - let us live in it!

We are not meant to be slaves.

Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

We are the **children** of God by faith in Christ.

Study 67

Galatians 4:27 For it is written, Rejoice, thou barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband.

The quote is from **Isaiah 54:1**.

Not directly associated with Hagar and Sarah.

Used to illustrate his theme.

Israel would be delivered from bondage.

For it is written: He sees a secondary application.

The Scriptures foretold the church.

Made up of both Jews and Gentiles.

The church is more numerous than Jewish nation.

Travailest not: a woman without **children**.

The church isn't Israel / Israel isn't the church.

The church has been crushed many times.

It will continue to produce **children**.

The **barren** will miraculously have **children**.

This was true of **barren** Sarah.

In Judaism it was though she was unmarried.

Hagar appeared to be the true wife / mother.

Sarah - Messiah - Church.

Earthly Jerusalem represents the Law.

It cannot produce the church.

The church grew out of Judaism but not the Law.

As Ishmael hated Isaac, so Jews hate Christianity.

Romans 11:11 I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy.

Israel could have produced spiritual **children**.

But she divorced from God.

Yes, there is a reunion prophesied.

Until then focus is on the church.

It's the church that has the spiritual **children**.

Study 68

Galatians 4:28-29 Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise. But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now.

Now the allegory focus upon Christians.

Now we brethren: speaking to Gentile believers.

We are not in bondage like Ishmael.

We are **children of promise** like Isaac.

Children of God rather than of the Law.

Children of promise refers to the Gospel.

This is salvation by grace through faith.

Persecuted: Ishmael **persecuted** Isaac.

Genesis 21:9 And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, which she had born unto Abraham, mocking.

Persecuted may indicate Ishmael's desire to kill.

Whichever way, it would have ended badly.

Those in the **flesh** persecute those in the **Spirit**.

See the connection - **Promise ... Spirit**.

* Hagah = Old Covenant (Law).

* Ishmael = Old nature (flesh).

* Sarah = New Covenant (the Gospel of Christ).

* Isaac = New nature (power of the Holy Spirit).

Both the Old Covenant and Old Nature removed.

Romans 8:7 **Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.**

Spiritual truths seen in Hagar and Ishmael's lives.

The Law and Judaism can't set people free.

Working for salvation is still Satan's major lie.

Even so now: the same holds true today.

Our greatest opposition is religion not politics.

Religion always accommodates the **flesh**.

Religion is born of the **flesh**.

It operates according to the **flesh**.

Self-righteousness / works / false humility.

It rejects the way of the **Spirit**.

Why? It rejects the finished work of Christ.

Study 69

Galatians 4:30-31 Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman. So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free.

The casting out of legalists.

They cannot inherit the blessings.

Only the **children** of faith can.

What saith the scripture?: Refocus on the word.

Paul brings everything back to **Scripture**.

Everything must be tested by this means.

2 Peter 1:3-4 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Cast out the bondwoman and her son:

* Historically: Hagar and Ishmael were **cast out**.

Harsh, but necessary.

To protect the godly, Messianic line.

Both women / sons could not co-exist.

* Spiritually: The Law and old nature must go.

Cannot co-exist, mix or unify.

The heritage of the saints must be protected.

The imposition of the Law damages the church.

The son of the bondwoman cannot be heir:

No dividing the inheritance between the two sons.

Grace and Law cannot both inherit the promise.

They are incompatible with each other.

Of the free: not of the one in bondage.

So then: therefore - should be plain enough.

Here is the spiritual logic of the matter.

Notice **we** rather than you.

No true child of God finds freedom in the Law.

We includes both believing Jews and Gentiles.

All who embrace the gospel.

Everyone else is enslaved to the Law or sin.

We're free from religion, rituals and rules.

Our birthright is in Christ alone.

We are **free** - liberated by and in Christ.

Salvation isn't found in Judaism.

Grace and Law don't mix.

We don't become more spiritual being Jewish.

In fact the very opposite is true.

Study 70

Galatians 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

Paul has defended his apostleship.

He had defended the gospel of grace.

Now he defends the **liberty** of believers.

Some taught that grace gave **liberty** to sin.

Legalists would rather have Law than grace.

Stand fast therefore: don't budge an inch.

Stand fast in the **liberty Christ** gave.

That **liberty** came by way of the cross.

Liberty from what? = The Law.

No one was **free** under the Old Covenant.

Every law was written in stone.

Faith in **Christ** frees us from servile obedience.

The Law demanded self-effort instead of faith.
This constantly frustrated the sinner.
This is what the Galatians were veering towards.
Then sin would dominate their lives.

Romans 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

We must stand firm in the freedom Christ gave us.

Entangled: ensnared - held captive.

Again: they had not previously known the Law.

Go to the Law was like a return to paganism.

Their pagan beliefs had laws, rituals, duties.

Going back to the religion of self-effort.

Returning to a state outside of grace.

The **liberty** we have is glorious.

Romans 8:21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

We've been given the power not to sin.

This freedom isn't a restraint within itself.

We must follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

He will enable us to overcome temptation.

Walking in the Spirit is freedom from old master.

We are released to serve God in holiness.

False teachers cannot free us.

2 Peter 2:18-20 For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage. For if

after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.

It's either **liberty** or *entanglement* (**bondage**).

The choice is ours.

Study 71

Galatians 5:2 Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing.

Behold: listen well, mark my words.

Paul speaks with the authority of an apostle.

This is the Holy Spirit speaking through him.

Calling the church away from Judaism.

"Listen to me," he says, "not the Judaizers."

If ye be circumcised: the seal of Judaism.

This is what the Judaizers wanted.

This is circumcision for religious reasons.

It was circumcision for salvation.

The church had already condemned this notion.

Sadly the Jewish believers still trusted in it.

The Jewish church didn't understand grace.

Not two ways to be saved.

Christ shall profit you nothing: waste of time.

Circumcision to be saved is a rejection of **Christ**.

It is all about works rather than faith and grace.

Power of own blood instead of Christ's.

Depending on anything but the cross.

Those who follow this route perish.

Galatians 4:8 **Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods.**

Why? Because the cross has been denied.

The Galatians thought that Judaism offered:-

- * Another way to embrace **Christ**.
- * A deeper spiritual life.
- * A cross-less way to be saved.

The Judaizer's Jesus was a false **Christ**.

Circumcision is a flesh (own) sacrifice.

Going to Judaism is actually backsliding.

It rejects **Christ**, and is a wicked sin.

Hebrews 10:26-30 For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people.

The same truth is for Jewish and Gentile believers.

The Law cannot save either Jew or Gentile.

Jesus is the only atonement for sin.

All religion must be laid aside.

Colossians 2:9-19 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. Let no

man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ. Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God.

Study 72

Galatians 5:3-4 For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law. Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

Resorting to religious practices brings death.

A life of increasingly burdensome regulations.

Feasts, circumcision, then the whole **Law**.

Circumcised: Paul had already explained this.

Circumcision placed man legally under the **Law**.

They would lose all that the Holy Spirit had done.

Debtor: obliged without question to obey the **Law**.

This person places himself outside of:

- * No condemnation.
- * **Grace.**
- * Righteousness and Justification.
- * Christ.

Obligated to keep every command of the **Law**.

In for a penny, in for a pound.

No longer living by faith but by works.

Following the **Law** puts a person beyond **grace**.

No effect: no use following **Christ**.

A very serious statement.

The blessings of salvation gone?

What is the **effect** of **Christ** but salvation?

This is a sure way to lose salvation.

Basically the **Law** would cancel out faith.

Justified by the law: the **Law** cannot do this.

Acts 13:39 And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

Romans 3:20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

To try to would be akin to abandoning **grace**.

Fallen from grace: cast away, dropped out of.

Hebrews 6:4-6 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

Holds the idea of forsaking **grace**.

To fall from **grace** for the **Law** brings a curse.

Deuteronomy 27:26 Cursed be he that confirmeth not all the words of this law to do them. And all the people shall say, Amen.

No longer part of the Kingdom.

Not under the Atonement of **Christ**.

Sin doesn't make us fall from **grace**.

It's caused by religious observance.

Works promoters don't trust in Jesus.

Study 73

Galatians 5:5-7 For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love. Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?

We must choose between grace and legalism.

The Holy **Spirit** will only guide us by grace.

Through the Spirit: always **through the Spirit**.

We indicates that it's for all believers.

Through - by means of, by the leading of.

This infers that we must be willing to obey Him.

Victory is never **through** the flesh.

Wait for the hope of righteousness by faith:

Waiting for the completion of the work of God.

The end result of what He started in us.

Colossians 1:5 For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel.

Titus 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.

Don't have all the rewards of **righteousness** yet.

Romans 8:23 And not only they , but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit , the redemption of our body.

By faith is the only manner it can be achieved.

Where is our confidence?

In Jesus Christ: not works or **circumcision**.

Circumcision or lack of it can't make us right.

Cutting the flesh doesn't make us spiritual.

Circumcision typifies salvation by works.

By faith that worketh by love:

True **faith** expresses itself by **love** for God.

Faith works because **love** obeys.

This **love** isn't proud of human ability.

Ye did run well: athletic terminology.

They started out **well**, but it's gone bad for them.

The Law made them lose hope.

Their confidence in **Christ** was shattered.

Who did hinder you?: someone did this to them.

Who refers to the Judaizers.

Attempting to obey the Law, they disobeyed God.

They were ignoring grace.

The truth can only be found in **Christ**.

The Law hindered their progress.

They were running with a heavy weight.

Study 74

Galatians 5:8-10 This persuasion cometh not of him that calleth you. A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump. I have confidence in you through the Lord, that ye will be none otherwise minded: but he that troubleth you shall bear his judgment, whosoever he be.

The Holy Spirit wasn't teaching the Judaizers.

The origin of their teaching wasn't Heaven.

This persuasion: this influence, inducement.

Paul uses this in terms of temptation.

They were promising a deeper spiritual life.

Cometh not of him that calleth you: God.

They were not messengers of God.

The Galatians were being scammed.

A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump:

This is the result of accepting false religion.

What we believe influences everything.

One bad apple ...

One false doctrine corrupts everything.

A **little** law will ruin grace.

We cannot make exceptions.

I have confidence in you through the Lord:

He prays that they would return to grace.

He had faith that they would do so.

That ye will be none otherwise minded:

They had to fully reject the false teachers.

The **leaven** / false doctrines had to be eradicated.

Matthew 16:12 Then understood they how that he bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.

Must not embrace any other gospel.

He that troubleth you: the Judaizers.

Shall bear his judgement: his curse.

Has same idea as Paul's previous statements.

Galatians 1:8-9 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

The false gospel perverted / troubled them.

Galatians 1:7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.

Bear: to receive the full measure of.

It would be God's **judgement** upon them.

Whosoever: no matter how nice they were.

False doctrine must be judged.

False teachers must be judged.

Why? They degrade the atonement.

Do we want to fellowship with the damned?

Study 75

Galatians 5:11-13 And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? then is the offence of the cross ceased. I would they were even cut off which trouble you. For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

Maybe some thought he still taught Judaism.

They were calling him a hypocrite.

This notion doesn't make sense.

Why was he being persecuted by the legalists?

If I still preach circumcision: Jewish traditions.

May refer to Timothy's **circumcision**.

Paul had tried to solve a problem with this.

It was expediency rather than for salvation.

There was no way to win with the Judaizers.

Why do I yet suffer persecution?:

The Judaizers simply hated Paul.

Why? He had broken from Judaism.

He was no longer preaching **circumcision**.

Then is the offence of the cross ceased:

Stop preaching the **cross** - **persecution** ceases.

The **cross** was an **offence** to the Jewish mind.

The **cross** laid aside the Mosaic Law.

Good works and man's ability are futile.

I would they were even cut off:

This is meant to be a sarcastic remark.

It drives through the foolishness of **circumcision**.

Think about it ...

- * If **circumcision** brings salvation.

- * If **circumcision** makes a person more spiritual.

Then castration would complete the work!

Why stop at **circumcision**?

For, brethren, ye hath been called unto Liberty:

Paul calls them back to **liberty** in Christ.

The Law brings bondage - Christ brings **liberty**.

Liberty isn't the freedom to sin though.

Use not Liberty for an occasion to the flesh:

Occasion here means *base of operations*.

Grace isn't a licence to sin.

That route ends in spiritual disaster.

Speaking against antinomianism.

Once saved, always saved encourages this.

But by love serve one another:

Meant as a safeguard against legalism.

* Instead of being slaves to the Law.

* Instead of being servants of sin.

Serve each other sacrificially.

The Law of Moses can't produce better Christians.

The Law of Christ (**love**) does.

Which will we practice?

Galatians 5:6 Faith which worketh by love.

Study 76

Galatians 5:14-15 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.

For all the law is fulfilled in one word:

Love is the fulfilment of the **Law**.

Notice the word **all** here.

All means *the summery of* or *the bottom line*.

Deuteronomy 6:5 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

This encapsulates the Ten Commandments.

We break the **law** if we love God and hate others.

1 Corinthians 13 is a perfect commentary here.

Though shalt love thy neighbour as thyself:

Romans 13:9 For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

All the requirements of the **Law** are met in **love**.

This is exactly what Jesus referred to.

John 15:12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

The apostle John writes about it.

1 John 3:22-23 And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are

pleasing in his sight. And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.

Romans 13:10 Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Where **love** is established, no need for laws.

Ye bite and devour one another:

Lack of love causes strife.

Terminology used for wild animals.

Hatred was brewing in Galatians church.

Caused by the Judaizers.

The remedy wasn't **law** but **love**.

Consumed of one another:

They were destroying each other's spiritual lives.

They were like cannibals.

The in-fighting had to stop.

How? By obeying the false teachers?

No. A return to grace was needed.

Accepting the **law** brings a curse and unrest.

Following the cross is a blessing and rest.

Study 77

Galatians 5:16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

Walk in the Spirit:

The solution for all disunity in churches.

The old nature always seeks to dominate.

Laws are not the answer to problems in church.

More regulations actually make things worse.

It's the Holy **Spirit** who ought to govern.

Victory is found in submitting to Him.

The new nature is motivated by Him not laws.

Our responsibility is to **walk in the Spirit**.

This is how we cooperate with God.

God wants the greatest results for us.

1 Corinthians 15:49 And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the

image of the heavenly.

Colossians 3:10 And have put on the new man , which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him.

Walk refers to the way we conduct ourselves.

This is how we progress in Christ.

Not our old lifestyle or choosing.

Ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh:

Lust is singular and refers to the ungodly nature.

Temptation through the five senses.

The body feels at home in this world.

Satan uses **lust** to steer us away from God.

Lust then is the passion of the **flesh**.

1 John 2:15-16 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not

of the Father, but is of the world.

The **Spirit** wants to suppress this nature.

The **flesh** uses the senses to dull our spirit.

The **flesh** seeks the pre-salvation state.

Neither the **Spirit** or Satan can force us.

This is where free will operates.

Romans 7:18-24 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

But victory is guaranteed for us in Christ.

Romans 7:25-8:2 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin. There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

The choice is ours.

Fulfil is the part we play in this.

Fulfil the desires of the **flesh** or the **Spirit**.

Study 78

Galatians 5:17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

The **Spirit** and the **flesh** cannot be reconciled.

They will always be in conflict on earth.

The **flesh** seeks to suppress the **Spirit**.

The **Spirit** seeks the submission of the **flesh**.

The body will always desire to rebel.

This is why we need the **Spirit** of God.

Walking in the **Spirit** holds back the **flesh**.

The struggle isn't between our two natures.

It's between our will and God's will.

The cross is the power to nullify the **flesh**.

Luke 9:23 If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and

follow me.

And these are contrary the one to the other:

The **flesh** demand the liberty to sin.

The **Spirit** gives the liberty not to sin.

It depends on who reigns.

Romans 6:12 **Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.**

Sin is a powerful, damnable force.

The cause of all the world's problems.

We shouldn't underestimate its power.

Jesus came to deliver us from it.

Sin had to be dealt with.

Sin is continuously defeat by faith in Christ.

So that you cannot do the things that ye would:

We have no power to resist the power of sin.

We choose to follow **flesh** or the **Spirit**.

Not both.

No way to overcome sin but by the **Spirit**.

It's His ability not ours.

Follow the **flesh** = do what Satan wants.

Follow the **Spirit** = do what God wants.

Following the **Spirit** = not wanting to sin.

Study 79

Galatians 5:18-21 But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

Verse 18 is a summery of the previous discussion. Proclaims the need to steer clear of the **Law**.

But if ye be led of the Spirit:

If speaks of personal the choice we must make.

The **Spirit** does not lead us to follow the **Law**.

Led means that we must submit to the **Spirit**.

Ye are not under the law:

Here is the emphatic statement of freedom.

Being in the **Spirit** are we **not under the Law**.

No other means can keep us free from it.

Romans 8:1-2 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

Paul now lists the things that the **Law** governs.

Adultery: unlawful relationships.

Fornication: Gk. *Porneia*. Sexual promiscuity.

Uncleanness: homosexuality, bestiality.

Lasciviousness: lustfulness.

Idolatry: worship of any kind of image.

Witchcraft: Gk. *Pharmaceia*. Satanism. Occult.

Hatred: malice, ill-will, grudges.

Variance: discord, disunity, enmity.

Emulations: jealousies, self-promotion.

Wrath: turmoil, violence, war, rage.

Strife: contention, debating vain things.

Seditions: factions, disorder.

Heresies: twisting the truth.

Envyings: murderous jealousy.

Murders: murder and character assassination.

Drunkedness: use of alcoholic drinks.

Revellings: drunken parties or celebrations.

The list isn't mean to be complete.

Notice the words **and such like**.

There is no depth of sin the **flesh** won't sink to.

Of the which I tell you before:

Paul had warned them about this previously.

He wasn't afraid to call sin for what it is.

He'd be considered politically incorrect today.

The church must be warned.

Shall not inherit the Kingdom of God:

Those who practice these have no salvation.

Notice that grace isn't the liberty to sin.

So the **Law** automatically applies regarding sin.

Those following the **Spirit** have no freedom to sin.

How many are truly saved in our churches?

These **things** damn the soul even under grace.

Walk in the **Law** and the result is damnation.

Do refers to the lifestyle practiced.

The **Spirit** led lifestyle is entirely different.

Study 80

Galatians 5:22-24 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

Here the **fruit** is contrasted with the works.

Works requires personal effort.

Fruit is the natural product of growth.

Fruit is singular like an orange / need all parts.

The **fruit** describe the virtues of the **Spirit**.

* Three are Godward.

* Three are manward.

* Three are selfward.

The fruit of the Spirit is:

Not the virtues of man, but of the **Spirit**.

Love is sacrificial **love**. God's nature in us.

The greatest of the virtues in **1 Corinthians 13**.

Joy is the gladness only the believer can have.

It is the outward manifestation of inward **peace**.

Peace is **peace** with God rather than with man.

It is sanctifying **peace**: assurance.

Longsuffering is steadfastness under pressure.

Endurance and patience in difficulties.

Gentleness refers to kindness and forgiveness.

Goodness means moral worth and generosity.

Faith is faithfulness, dependability, commitment.

Meekness is humility, lack of self-promotion.

Temperance is self-control, restraint.

Against such there is no law:

No Mosaic command is greater than the **fruit**.

The **fruit of the Spirit** fulfils every **Law**.

The works of the flesh cannot overcome this.

The **fruit** trumps works.

The fruit of the Spirit is our victory over the **flesh**.

They that are Christ's: those who follow Him.

Only those who belong to Christ.

Only those who have faith in His finished work.

Everyone else knows nothing of this.

Have crucified the flesh:

Can only refer to the old nature of sin.

It must mean victory over the desires of the **flesh**.

Affections refer to the tendency to do evil.

Desires that draw us to commit sin.

Lusts are the desires of the body or mind.

This crucifixion can only be done by the **Spirit**.

Cooperating with God rather than through works.

Have crucified is past tense - when we believed.

The **fruit** started to grow when we began to follow.

The source of total victory in Christ.

Study 81

Galatians 5:25-26 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

If we live in the Spirit: constantly inline with Him.

Living **in the Spirit** is the life of God in us.

It is living according to the will of the **Spirit**.

Not the impulses of the flesh.

The direction and guidance of the Holy **Spirit**.

This refers to His abiding presence.

John 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever.

Live in the Spirit speaks of our union with Him.

Let us also walk in the Spirit:

Walk here is *walking in a straight line*.

To conduct ourselves after His leadership.

This is where dependence comes in.

Walk (Gk. *Stoicheo*) means *march in line*.

It is a disciplined or crucified life.

Let us not be desirous of vain glory:

Verse 26 returns to the theme in **:15**.

Galatians 5:15 But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.

Ambition often wants to outdo and belittle others.

The Law-keepers think they are super-spiritual.

Vain glory is trying to honour self.

Thinking we are better than everyone else.

This pride always results in a fall.

The church was destroying itself from within.

Provoking one another:

Actually refers to having contempt for others.

Revengeful, hatred, disdain.

Envy one another:

This is the bitterness of disunity.

Disunity caused by a different gospel.

Everyone trying to be superior to others.

The opposite of walking **in the Spirit**.

5:26 is a bridge to **6:1**.

Study 82

Galatians 6:1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

What does it mean to live a Spirit-filled life?

It's easy just to talk about the fruit of the Spirit.

Paul explains what the crucified life includes.

Brethren, if any man be overtaken in a fault:

Referring to those placing themselves in the Law.

He will automatically fail to obey the Law.

Overtaken means *taken unawares*.

Bound by the Law attempting to be free from sin.

Not walking in the Spirit but in the flesh.

Fault here refers to *a false step* or *failure*.

Living by the Law always results in failure.

Ye which are spiritual:

Those living in the Spirit / understanding the cross.

The **spiritual** live in the victory of grace.

Spiritual as opposed to carnal.

Dependent on the Holy Spirit.

Restore such an one:

Restore means to *bring back, recover, deliver*.

Restore (*return*) to their position in Christ.

They're sinking in the quagmire of legalism.

Only the **spiritual** can *rescue* them.

In the spirit of meekness:

Dealing with legalists requires humility.

Pride makes us think we are better than them.

The fruit of **meekness** has to be in us **5:23**.

Self-righteousness always spells defeat.

Considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted:

Considering means *to think about* and *take heed*.

Romans 16:17 Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.

This is an important warning.

We are prone to become proud and self-righteous.

We are not to think highly of ourselves.

We are often **tempted** to become conceited.

Do we want the same pride as the legalists?

Let's not let Satan trick us as he did them.

Christlikeness is vital in all situations.

Study 83

Galatians 6:2-5 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself. But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. For every man shall bear his own burden.

Bear ye one another's burdens:

This is a second example of how the fruit works.

Continues the theme of restoration.

Bear Gk. *bastazo* - to carry, endure.

Burdens mean *heavy load, heartache, shame*.

This is where brotherly love operates.

Basically it's looking out for their spiritual welfare.

Especially where a fall from grace is involved.

And so fulfil the law of Christ:

Love is **the law of Christ**.

Galatians 5:14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

The Law of Moses was condemning.

To love God, we must love the brethren.

Conceit and pride hinder the Fruit of the Spirit.

We shouldn't be above helping others.

For if a man think himself to be something:

Do we think we are better or holier than others?

We are **nothing** instead of **something**.

The spiritually superior are the biggest failures.

They spend much time thinking about self.

He deceiveth himself:

Self-deceived and conceited.

Spiritually ignorant.

That's the snare the legalists are caught in.

But let every man prove his own work:

There is a temptation to compare ourselves.

Prove means *test, examine, measure*.

We need to examine our own spirituality first.

And then he shall have rejoicing in himself:

This is the remedy for gloating over others.

Not in another: *not over others*.

Let's rejoice that God has given us the victory.

Don't gloat because someone has failed.

That's the flesh thinking it is superior.

Take a long, hard look at self.

For every man shall bear his own burdens:

Burdens in :2 refers to *heavy burden* on others.

Burden in :5 means a *personal weight*.

Burden here means *cargo, capacity*.

We've all got something in our lives.

Maybe others don't see it since it's well hidden.

We are responsible before God for it.

No place for snobbish spirituality in the church.

Study 84

Galatians 6:6-8 Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things. Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

The *prosperity crowd* force *money* into this text.

Let him that is taught in the word:

The one receiving spiritual instruction.

Not shepherding or psychology but God's **word**.

The **him** may refer to someone in false teaching.

Communicate unto him that teacheth:

Communicate means to *partner with*.

Speaks of the willingness to be disciplined.

Refers to fellowship rather than giving money.

Good things or *spiritual things*.

We should not fellowship with sound teachers.

Not following every so-called preacher.

Only teachers who preach about Christ.

Must focus on the cross, or else ignore him.

Communicate can also refer to support.

Philippians 4:15 Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.

We should only financially support solid ministries.

This principle is taught in both Testaments.

Be not deceived:

We might be deceived but **God** isn't.

Many are deceived by false teachers today.

The Hebrew Roots people are deceived.

The Faith Movement are deceived.

Sacramentalists are deceived.

Drifting into the Law is deception.

We won't be if we stay in the **word**.

God is not mocked:

Mocked is *sneered upon, ridiculed*.

Can't get away with ignoring His **word**.

Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he reap:

A seed sown produces much fruit.

We get a return on our investment, with interest.

Rejecting grace brings disaster.

There are consequences for our beliefs.

There are consequences for our actions.

Sow for **God** and reap the promises.

2 Corinthians 9:6 But this I say, He which

soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

He that soweth to the flesh:

This can only produce **corruption** and defeat.

Refers to the teaching of the Judaizers.

Religion pays its wages - failure.

Philosophy and psychology bring defeat.

The **flesh** can only produce sinfulness.

He that soweth to the Spirit:

We'll be rewarded if we follow His voice.

If we obey His guidance and direction.

Romans 6:22 But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

It's either **corruption** or life **everlasting**.

It's our choice.

The Holy **Spirit** only points us to the cross.

The works of the **flesh** cannot save.

Study 85

Galatians 6:9-10 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

Deals with the past, present and future.

Whatever we do to honour Christ reaps a reward.

Let us not be weary in well doing:

Don't give up sowing **to the Spirit** **Galatians 6:8**.

Faith and obedience must continue.

We must continue walking in the Spirit.

Weary is *to lose heart and quit*.

Weary means exactly the same as **faint**.

Well doing ... **Well** believing produces **well doing**.

This **well doing** is by **faith** not works.

It isn't so we can feel justified or righteous.

For in due season we shall reap, if we faint not:

Due season is *according to God's perfect plan*.

God always works to perfect timing.

We shall reap ... shall is the guarantee.

Every seed has its prescribed harvest.

God's seeds always produce a harvest.

Isaiah 55:11 **So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.**

If we faint not ... don't quit sowing.

No harvest is possible without sowing.

The sower must sow in good times and bad.

The harvest is always joyful despite the climate.

Psalms 126:5-6 **They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with**

rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

As we have opportunity, let us do good:

Here is an example of how we should sow.

Opportunity refers to *an appropriate time*.

Some opportunities are not always appropriate.

This calls for the discernment of the Spirit.

Only every Spirit-led **opportunity** to **do good**.

This can be towards the unsaved too.

Good is the product of the work of the Spirit.

All men regardless of religion, race or status.

All men means everyone.

The household of faith:

Household of faith means true believers.

Especially indicates the priority.

We must put our family first.

This is the order the Holy Spirit has set in motion.

Study 86

Galatians 6:11-13 Ye see how large a letter I have written unto you with mine own hand. As many as desire to make a fair shew in the flesh, they constrain you to be circumcised; only lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For neither they themselves who are circumcised keep the law; but desire to have you circumcised, that they may glory in your flesh.

Ye see how large a letter I have written:

This doesn't refer to big characters as some claim.

It instead relates the importance of the message.

Notice **letter** not letters, thus its length.

With my own hand reveals he wrote it himself.

As many as desire to make a fair shew in the flesh:

This is Paul last reference to the Judaizers.

Theirs was all outward show - trying to impress.

Through rituals, laws, religion.

This is the Pharisee way of influencing others.

Matthew 23:5-7 But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments, And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues, And greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi.

Religion is all show - religious theatre.

Sacramental Christianity save no one.

They constrain you to be circumcised:

This was the end result they were hoping for.

This would be a fall **from grace** **Galatians 5:4**.

This was their formula for salvation.

Judaic practices being forced on the church.

Only lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ:

They chose circumcision over the **cross**.

They were afraid of the Jewish religious leaders.

The **cross** was an offence to them.

Why? Preaching it brought **persecution**.

Paul had firsthand knowledge of this!

For neither they themselves who are circumcised keep the law:

Here is the religion of the hypocrite.

It is impossible to **keep** the whole **Law**.

No one wanted to **keep** its entirety anyway.

They formulated a religion based on their ideas.

Keeping parts of the **Law** made them proud.

But desire to have you circumcised, that they may glory in your flesh:

They simply wanted numbers in their ranks.

Paul was being sarcastic here.

They gloried in a little bit of chopped of **flesh**.

That's the **glory** of religion - the **flesh**.

It's all about what the **flesh** can do.

Self-achievement religion is the biggest failure.

Quantity (numbers) doesn't equate with quality.

Numbers for the Judaizers was their proof.

Not concerned about their followers.

Matthew 23:4 For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.

Study 87

Galatians 6:14-15 But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.

Religion is about boasting and self-righteousness.

Religion, in all its forms, cannot save a soul.

But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ:

This is directly opposite religious belief.

The **cross** alone is the basis of our exultation.

Why do we **glory** (boast) in the **cross**?

- * Because **Jesus** took our place there.
- * **Jesus**, the Lamb of God, was completely pure.
- * **Jesus** fulfilled the Law.

- * **Jesus** reconciled us to God through His blood.
- * **Jesus** paid the price for our sin.
- * **Jesus** gave us new life - salvation.
- * **Jesus** sustains us by the Holy Spirit.
- * **Jesus** is preparing a place for us in Heaven.

How could we not rejoice in this!

By whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world:

This is the only way we can be victorious.

World has a twofold meaning:-

- * Our past life of sin, rebellion, religion.
- * The **world** system of ethics, morality, laws.

The **world** is under Satan's control.

2 Corinthians 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

The **world** must be **crucified**, that is, put to death.

This is what Paul is referring to:-

Romans 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Few believers can say the **world** is **crucified**.

For in Christ Jesus:

Everything must be **in** Him alone.

Not a mixture of ceremony and the **cross**.

In Christ Jesus must refer to the **cross** of **:14**.

Neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision:

Religion, or the lack of it, is of no importance.

Jews boasted about **circumcision**.

They equated salvation with it.

Gentiles boasted that they were not circumcised.

This produced contempt on both sides.

Nothing good was achieved either way.

1 Corinthians 7:19 **Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but the keeping of the commandments of God.**

But a new creature:

Transformation, new creation, **in Christ**.

A complete change.

John 3:3 **Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**

This is regeneration.

Titus 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.

Without the new birth we cannot follow **Christ**.

Study 88

Galatians 6:16-18 And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God. From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

Paul's closing words are at the heart of the gospel.

Doctrine is important because it unites.

This is what we shouldn't depart from.

And as many as walk according to this rule:

Walk is the direction we ought to take.

Only by walking in the Spirit can we have victory.

Rule (Gk. *Kanon*) is the principle truth, the gospel.

Those who don't follow the cross aren't saved.

Peace be on them, and mercy:

This **peace** and **mercy** is a guarantee.

Peace refers to sanctifying **peace**.

Mercy is derived from **grace**.

This **mercy** is salvation and redemption.

Peace and **mercy** come from **God** alone.

And upon the Israel of God:

Notice not **Israel** but **the Israel of God**.

The term refers to born again believers.

Obedience to the Law doesn't qualify us.

From henceforth let no man trouble me:

Paul was anticipating **trouble** from the Judaizers.

They had called his apostleship into question.

He refuses to discuss this any further.

For I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus Christ:

Could these be the scars of the many beatings?

2 Corinthians 11:23-27 Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.

This proves that Paul was no pretender.

No personal gain from persecution and death.

Marks not of circumcision but persecution.

Proof that he belonged to **Christ**.

Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit:

The closing salutation.

Brethren indicates that there is no animosity.

Satan had tried to divide.

Grace is from the **Lord Jesus Christ** not the Law.

Spirit (human **spirit**) - overcoming the flesh.

Walking in the flesh accomplishes nothing eternal.

It is our **spirit** energised by the Holy Spirit.

It is our **spirit** that addresses **God**.

John 4:23-24 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

Such freedom is only because of Calvary.

This is what Galatians is all about.

Faith in Christ alone saves.

True faith works and works well.

Amen!

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